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BEST FOR JOBS



WANTED

- ☐ Director 90K
- ☐ Man. Director 80K
- ☐ Planner 55K
- ☐ HR head 50K

APPOINTMENTS, 32 PAGES
SECTIONS 3 AND 4

Brown opts for 50p top rate of tax

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

Shadow Cabinet divided over hitting £100,000-plus earners only

GORDON BROWN is considering a new 50p top rate of income tax for earnings of more than £100,000 a year, members of the Shadow Cabinet were told yesterday.

The Shadow Chancellor's decision to lift the veil on his tax plans at a pre-conference meeting surprised his fellow frontbenchers — and displeased several who had been pressing for a new top rate to come in at a much lower level to finance extra spending on health and education.

They will complain at a later meeting that the introduction of such a high figure — which would

affect less than 1 per cent of the working population — would be a purely symbolic move that would have little impact in terms of extra spending. The Inland Revenue estimates that some 120,000 people earn more than £100,000. A higher tax on earnings over that figure would raise £1 billion.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary and effective leader of the Left, heads a group of Shadow Cabinet members in charge of spending areas who favour a more redistributive tax policy and believe

Mr Brown should pitch the earnings level well below £100,000. Mr Cook would be expected to have the backing of David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, and probably John Prescott, the Deputy Leader.

Yesterday, at a National Executive Committee meeting, Mr Cook and others questioned why Mr Brown had not included a cut-off figure for richer families when he announced his plans to replace child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds

with education allowances to encourage the children of poorer families to stay at school.

The leadership decided against setting the figure to avoid giving a cue of its thinking on the higher rate tax — it has been assumed by Shadow Cabinet members that the top rate and child benefit cut-off figures would be the same.

It was when the Shadow Cabinet was discussing the child benefit plan later yesterday that Mr Brown disclosed his thinking on a higher tax rate, although he added that he

would be making no announcements on tax policy until after the Budget on November 26.

The Shadow Chancellor's announcement comes after a stream of hints about Tony Blair's determination not to hit the middle classes and Mr Blair's personal inclination has been to leave the top rate unchanged at 40p. Some modernisers may still press him to persuade Mr Brown to go for that figure, but the Shadow Chancellor is in a position of huge strength in the leadership and Mr Blair would

be reluctant to overrule him.

As it is, the rate and figure favoured by Mr Brown will upset some traditional Labour supporters who believe the party has to be bolder over tax if it is to fulfil its social obligations.

The other key decision for the Labour leadership will be its response to the Budget if Mr Clarke decides to knock 1p or 2p off the 24p standard rate of income tax.

If the cut is 2p, some members of the Shadow Cabinet are to press Mr Blair and Mr Brown to reverse

half of it and earmark the £1.8 billion raised for health and education. But it is unlikely that either would go along with that strategy. They are expecting the Conservatives to lay a tax trap for them and would be reluctant to walk into it.

Mr Brown's disclosure to his colleagues yesterday is the clearest evidence that he is determined to prevent the Tories repeating their "tax bombshell" campaign of the last general election. The only other signal so far of the leadership's tax plans has been the indication that it is looking at a new bottom rate of 10-15 per cent, an idea that has gone down well in the party.

Unity appeal, page 11

Blair threatens to expel MP over Adams visit

By PHILIP WEBSTER, NICHOLAS WATT AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Labour leadership last night threatened to eject Jeremy Corbyn from the parliamentary party for his "repugnant" behaviour in inviting Gerry Adams to the House of Commons today.

Tony Blair and his Chief Whip, Donald Dewar, were furious that the leftwing backbencher should be bringing the Sinn Féin president to Westminster so soon after the discovery of IRA plans to devastate London with lorry bombs.

But their approach was thrown into confusion when it was disclosed that the former Cabinet minister Tony Benn had joined Mr Corbyn in booking a Commons room for today's "private meeting".

Party sources refused to say

whether the punishment threatened for Mr Corbyn would also apply to Mr Benn, who intends to go to the meeting. "We are awaiting developments," an official said. "We have expressed the anger of the leadership and we will now see what happens."

Leadership sources had said that Mr Corbyn would lose the whip next month if he went ahead with today's meeting. Ultimately, that could mean that he would not be able to defend his Islington North constituency for Labour at the general election.

Mr Blair and Mr Dewar seized the opportunity to discipline Mr Corbyn, whose activities have often embarrassed the party. But they were unaware of Mr Benn's in-

volvement when they issued their threat. While Mr Corbyn is a relatively easy target, Mr Benn is not and the leadership would be loath to become embroiled in a battle with such a senior figure, still popular on the Left.

Last night the leadership was clinging to the hope that the visit would be called off, although senior Sinn Féin sources said they had no reason to believe that was the case and Mr Corbyn was reported to be determined that it should go ahead. He said nothing would be achieved by "driving the IRA further into their bunker".

Last week the House authorities banned Mr Adams from holding a press conference to publicise his new autobiography, since Commons rules prevent rooms being used for commercial promotions. But Mr Corbyn — and Mr Benn, as it turned out — helped Mr Adams to get round that by organising today's "private meeting". There is no bar on any member of the public going to Westminster to meet an MP.

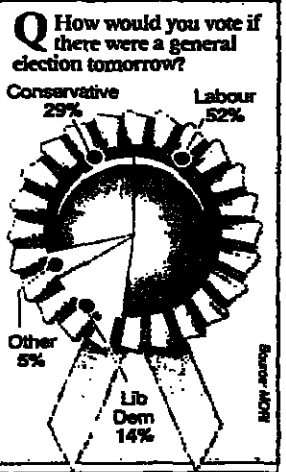
Tories' recovery in polls falters

By PETER RIDDELL

THE Tories' recovery in the polls has stalled as Labour consolidates its commanding lead ahead of its annual conference in Blackpool next week, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll was taken over last weekend as the latest Tory infighting about a European single currency was starting to make a big public impact. The Tories have fallen one percentage point over the past month to 29 per cent.

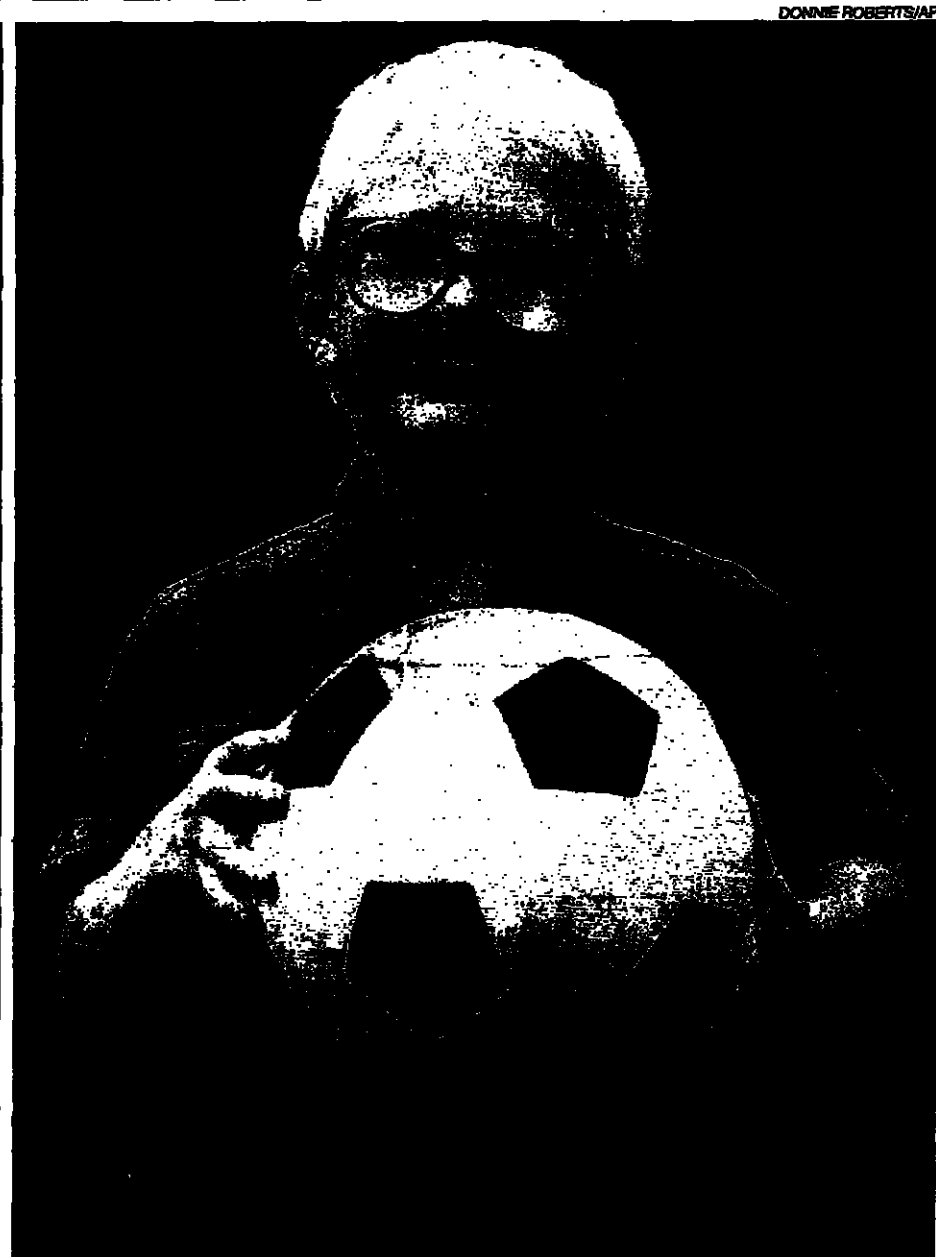
Labour's rating has hardly been affected by the party's recent internal rumblings. Over the past month, party support has risen one point to 52 per cent. This is the same as in June, though it is four points fewer than earlier this year. Labour leaders are relieved that the gap between them and the Tories, now 23 points, has not narrowed fur-



ther. The Liberal Democrats have edged up a point to 14 per cent, their highest level since May.

MORI interviewed 1,800 adults in 162 sampling points between September 20 and 23. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), are undecided (9 per cent) or who refused to say (3 per cent).

Leading article, page 19



Johnathan Prevette at home after being suspended for kissing a classmate

Boy, 6, learns price of a kiss

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SIX-YEAR-OLD boy has been disciplined by his North Carolina primary school for placing an affectionate peck on the cheek of a girl in his class.

Johnathan Prevette, from Lexington, kissed the unnamed girl as a sign of affection, his mother said yesterday. It earned him a rebuke for sexual harassment, and a day's exclusion.

He missed an ice-cream and fizzy drinks party and a co-ordinating lesson he had been invited to for good conduct in school. The controversial kiss was bestowed at the end of a cleaning-up session in which the two children had been tidying their classroom.

"A six-year-old kissing

another six-year-old is inappropriate behaviour," said Jane Martin for the local school district. "Unwelcome means unwelcome at any age." The code was to prevent "an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment".

The kiss was seen by a teacher who submitted a report to the school principal, Lisa Horne. Inquiries were made and Johnathan's action was deemed to have contravened the school's code against "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature". The code is part of a fat book of school rules.

Jackie Prevette, mother of Johnathan, said that it was

impossible for the six-year-old to grasp the concept of sexual harassment. It was the first time Johnathan had been in trouble, but he was put in detention for the day.

Mrs Prevette said: "The principal asked the little girl if she had asked Johnathan to kiss her. The little girl said no. Of course, if I was a six-year-old I'd be scared to death."

The mother added: "Johnathan understands he kissed a little girl and they got into trouble for it. But that's about it. This makes children wonder 'should I hug somebody?' It's no wonder we have all these people with behaviour problems."

Mrs Prevette argued that

Mass violence on West Bank threatens peace

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A DAY of mass violence, unprecedented since the end of the Intifada, yesterday brought the three-year-old peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians dangerously close to final collapse. By last night four Palestinians were dead and more than 200 had been wounded by Israeli security forces.

Shawqi Harb, director of the municipal hospital in Ramallah, where the bulk of the fighting took place, said that most of the wounded had been injured by rubber bullets or were suffering from the effects of gas inhalation. But, towards the end of the day, he added "we have been getting M16 gunshot wounds, mostly in the brain and chest... We have at least six or seven very critical patients. We expect some of them to die."

According to the Palestinian authorities, three of the four people killed were Palestinian policemen.

After earlier mass protests by Palestinians enraged by Israeli archaeological digging

in occupied east Jerusalem near al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, a fierce gun battle broke out between uniformed Palestinian policemen and Israeli troops on the edge of Ramallah, north of the city. Both sides blamed the other for starting the fighting.

Since the violence came at a time of high military tension between Israel and Syria and was provoked by a dispute between Muslims and Jews stretching back centuries, there were fears that it could spill over into wider conflict.

The crisis mood was heightened by the absence in France of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, who is on a tour of Europe. Today the 22-member Arab League will hold an emergency session in Cairo to demand immediate action against Israel. Threats of even greater violence against the Jewish state are to be issued during Friday prayers tomorrow.

Netanyahu appeal, page 12
Photograph, page 24

How to become a freelance writer

by NICK DAWS

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required.

The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

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Professor's first editions end up in the dustcart

By ROBIN YOUNG

A LEADING literary critic has mistakenly consigned his collection of books and papers to a municipal dustcart.

Sir Frank Kermode, former King Edward VII Professor of English Literature at Cambridge University, mistook Cambridge dustmen for removal men while he was moving house in May. He did not realise what was happening to his first editions, volumes with personal dedications and

irreplaceable manuscripts until about 30 boxes had been thrown into the dustcart and crushed by its compactor.

Now Sir Frank, who will be 77 in November, is claiming £20,000 compensation, alleging that many of the books and manuscripts in the dustcart were so thoroughly crushed that some have been irretrievably lost and others irreparably damaged.

The academic showed three council dustmen, who had been asked to make a special waste collection, into a room

at the house he was leaving and indicated a large collection of boxes which he wanted removed. When he realised where the boxes had gone, he asked the men to retrieve them from the cart, but they said they could not for safety reasons.

Instead, the cart was taken to a depot and unloaded. Arthur Savage, support services manager in Cambridge council finance department, said yesterday: "We still have the boxes at a depot and we are waiting for Sir Frank to collect

them. We are contesting Sir Frank's claim for compensation because we do not believe we did anything wrong.

"They were clearly identified as city council employees and how they could be thought to be removal men I just do not know. They were there by prior arrangement. Once it was realised they had been mistaken for removal men, they could not go back into the vehicle to rescue the professor's belongings because you cannot crawl into a compacting machine."

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Lunchless Liberals make a meal of their deepest principles

Four causes rouse special passion in a Liberal breast. One is local government. They really care about pavement politics and their voice in town halls nationwide is jealously guarded. Another is disability. To a Liberal Democrat, if the struggle is not about protecting the disadvantaged, it is about nothing.

The third is race. Liberals will bend over backward to show consideration to anyone from a minority ethnic group. The fourth cause is more selfish: every Liberal's

ceaseless search for free food. Some never enter the conference hall but spend their days wandering, like buffalo over the African plain, from nosh to nosh. A foodless debate risks an empty room.

Held in your mind those four great goals: pavement politics, anti-racism, pro-disability and free nosh. A clash within Liberal democracy between any two of these impulses would bring turmoil. A clash between all four would be emotional agony.

That clash occurred yesterday at the Sheridan Hotel in



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Brighton, around lunch. In defence of their local government heritage, Liberal Democrats found themselves obliged to miss lunch, shout down a man with a speech defect, and then rough up a black man.

The pain this caused them was pitiful to observe.

But to begin at the beginning... the Urban Campaign

Network plus bearded Tony Greaves, old fashioned liberal and famous wild man of the local government underground, had fronted a lunchtime fringe entitled: "Why We Don't Want To Get Into Bed With Labour". The aim was to marshal opposition to Mr Ashdown's rumoured plans to cuddle up to a Blair government. Many Liberal Demo-

crats in local government believe that to get "hunched up" (as Greaves put it) with Labour would wreck the party's foundations.

"A meeting for all activists who don't see Labour through rose-tinted spectacles!" said the handout. Greaves, a canny old owl, knew the topic was hot and saw his chance to save money on sausage rolls, so (in smaller print) dismayed delegates read "no free food or drink - but plenty of free expression".

Fighting the urge to graze at a rival meeting - "energy

from waste (free refreshments)" - scores turned up. They were in a mood to kill.

They think Ashdown is plotting to sell their heritage for a mess of Blairite potage. As the meeting progressed they grew angrier. "I don't like the word 'consensus', I prefer 'suspicion'" barked an Islington lady councillor. Greaves told them Labour was "rotting from within" and everyone cheered. "Don't sell the faith!" shouted one councillor, and they cheered some more. "Labour will naff up, make no mistake!" yelled another, to

supporting whoops. Then an articulate, young black delegate rose. Paddy was right, he said, to think about a pact. There was a confused growl from the floor. "Careerist!" shouted someone, surprising himself. "Are we serious about power," demanded the youth. "Rubbish!" shouted someone else.

"We may need to deal with Labour."

"Join 'em then!" "Turn off the TV cameras!" "He only came for the TV!" Soon the black man was being barracked on all sides. He found himself in a

smaller minority than the ethnic one. A minority of two, as it turned out, for now a man arose, a thoughtful man, with a stammer. "To be fair to Labour..." he began. "Why?" shouted someone. Soon, hindered by his stammer, he too was being interrupted cruelly.

These gentle people became like wild beasts. As I left, the black man was being attacked on the stairs. Someone was jabbing a finger at his chest shouting: "People like you..." and then, "Ow much did Paddy pay you?" I ran for cover.

European Court's decision seen as green light for evictions

Gypsy must stop living in caravan on her own land

By Frances Gibb and Ian Murray

A GYPSY faces prosecution and eviction after the European Court of Human Rights ruled yesterday that she could not legally stay in her caravan on her own land.

June Buckley, 32, had appealed against her local council's refusal to grant planning permission for her family to live in three caravans on land she owns in Willingham, Cambridgeshire. But the court in Strasbourg backed South Cambridgeshire District Council's stance in a ruling that is being seen as a landmark decision on gypsy rights. Mrs Buckley had argued that by refusing planning permission the council was denying her traditional gypsy rights. But the court said the council's decision was justified in the interests of the protection of the rights of others.

Kathleen Crandall, the council's legal and housing officer, said staff would now be under pressure to enforce their ruling. That could initially mean prosecution and then possibly eviction.

Mrs Buckley, who has lived illegally on the land with her three children for eight years, has refused offers of a place on a nearby local authority gypsy site. She said she planned to

continue the fight to stay in her caravans, which planning officials say are an eyesore.

Some 15 gypsies, including one of Mrs Buckley's neighbours, have similar cases to be heard. Gypsy leaders estimate that between 300 and 400 gypsies are illegally living on their own land throughout Britain. They now fear that councils across the country will take the European Court's decision as a green light to press ahead with evictions.

Mrs Buckley said yesterday: "I am disappointed but I didn't pin too much hope on it because we have had so many disappointments. I have got nowhere else to go. I am not going on the site, so there is only one way and that is to carry on."

Mrs Crandall said that Mrs Buckley had exhausted various appeals. "I do feel our priority now is to help her find somewhere else," she added. "Mrs Buckley has had a long run without planning permission and understandably villagers in Willingham will now be expecting us to enforce our decision."

The council said it had an excellent record on giving planning permission to gypsies and dismissed any sug-

gestion of discrimination. Eli Frankham, president of the Romani Rights Association, said the court's ruling was bad news for many gypsies who did not want to live on council sites but wanted to settle on their own land.

"People don't want to stay on council sites because all too often there are youngsters causing running riot there and trouble. Gypsies today cannot travel around in the way they used to, because they get moved on after a few days. Now people want a base where they can live on their own land and have their children educated."

Luke Clements, Mrs Buckley's solicitor, said the court had judged the case on the basis of a complaint made in 1991, when the law covering campsites for travellers was different. "Since then the 1994 Criminal Justice Act has removed the duty on local authorities to provide camp sites and has criminalised camping on waste ground. There are at least 15 cases waiting to go to Strasbourg based on these issues and we are confident of winning them."

He said Mrs Buckley still had a Court of Appeal hearing pending on her own case.



June Buckley, who has been told she must move

Police chief condemns 'university' policemen

By Stewart Tandler
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR police leader warned "progressive" chief constables yesterday against opposing Government plans for tougher sentencing policies and condemned them for being out of step with their commanders on the streets.

Chief Superintendent Brian MacKenzie, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, said there was a "new breed of younger, university-educated chief constables" who allied themselves with the senior judges who have opposed the plans by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Speaking in front of Mr Howard at the association's annual conference in Stratford on Avon, Mr MacKenzie offered support for proposals including a "two strikes and you're out" life sentence for serious violent and sexual offenders and stiffer sentences for burglars and drug dealers and cuts in remission.

Although he declined to name which senior officers he had in mind, Mr MacKenzie told delegates: "The clear steer I have from hard-bitten superintendents working at the coal face of policing is that we support your long-needed reforms and we will not alter our position one jot, however many young and so-called progressive chief constables call for 'enlightened, socially acceptable solutions'." Mr MacKenzie said it was in the national interest for the proposals to go through.

BMA rebuked over doctors' 53% claim

Doctors leaders were reprimanded by NHS managers yesterday for claiming a 53 per cent pay rise. The British Medical Association said that the rise was necessary to bring doctors back into line with solicitors and accountants. Doctors had slipped progressively in the earnings league since 1980. The BMA said there was growing evidence of recruitment and retention problems in the NHS and fair comparisons with comparable occupations "should be the most important factor in setting doctors' pay."

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts said that the pay claim would bankrupt the NHS. "The BMA is simply not living in the real world," Philip Hunt, the director, said. The association challenged the BMA's claim that doctors' pay had not kept pace with comparable professions.

Dilemma for Hogg

The European Parliament yesterday called Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to Brussels to explain Britain's handling of the BSE affair. The meeting is set for October 8, the opening day of the Conservative Party conference, when he is due to open a debate on agriculture. If Mr Hogg decides to testify before the public hearing he will face hostile questions from MEPs, the majority of whom believe that Britain has grossly mishandled the BSE affair.

Pope 'prepared to quit'

The Pope has signed a "resignation note" in the event that his mental capacities decline because of a serious illness, according to a report in tomorrow's *Catholic Herald*. The weekly newspaper claims it has "tentative" confirmation that the Pontiff has Parkinson's disease as well as the appendix due to be taken out in an operation next month. The Vatican has denied reports in France that the Pope has Parkinson's disease. Body and Mind, page 16

Architects vie for prize

A factory for Doc Marten shoes and a new station for Blackpool's famous roller-coaster are among the 51 Royal Institute of British Architects' regional awards today. The list starts off the race to win RIBA's new £20,000 Stirling Prize, architecture's equivalent of the Turner Prize for artists. The jury described the roller-coaster station as "seriously fun" and offering "a lofty backdrop to the snaking queue of aspirants and quaking bodies of descendants".

Courts martial changes not enough, judges told

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

PROPOSED reforms of courts martial in Britain would not end the unfairness of the system, judges at the European Court of Human Rights were told today. Revised procedures, designed to reinforce the independence of the military courts, will come into force in April. But that would not help Alexander Findlay, his lawyer, John Mackenzie, told the judges in Strasbourg.

Mr Findlay, 35, was court-martialled in 1991 after taking army colleagues hostage at gunpoint during a tour of duty in Northern Ireland. He was suffering post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in the Falklands War.

He did not attend the hearing yesterday because he is still traumatised. Mr Mackenzie told the court that the former soldier had been denied a fair hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal, as required by the Convention on Human Rights

to which Britain is a signatory. He urged the judges not only to find the Government in violation of the convention but to award substantial compensation to Mr Findlay.

The case is the first in a series of attempts by army and RAF personnel to have the courts-martial system scrapped as a breach of human rights. If the judges back Mr Findlay, the Ministry of Defence could face dozens of compensation claims and a bill for millions of pounds, even though significant changes have already received Royal Assent and take effect on April 1 next year.

Mr Findlay, a former Scots Guard now living in Windsor, pleaded guilty at his court martial and was jailed for two years. He threatened other members of his unit, firing two shots, after a heavy drinking session. He also threatened to kill himself. The soldier was jailed despite psy-

chiatric evidence that he had been suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder at the time.

Mr Mackenzie said that the current courts-martial procedure could not be deemed a properly constituted court with appropriately trained officials having legal qualifications or experience. Decision-making members of courts martial had minimal or no legal expertise and record-keeping was "rudimentary and haphazard".

Philip Havers, QC, for the Government, told the court that the new system would be very different. He emphasised that there would always be a need for special arrangements for the Armed Forces.

Mr Findlay has already received £100,000 from the Ministry of Defence after a civil action alleging negligence in failing to treat his post-traumatic stress. Judgment will be given next year.

Price of kiss

Continued from page 1

the rules on sexual harassment should apply only to older children. The case threatened the innocence of young America. She added: "I don't want other kids to have to go through this."

No comment was forthcoming from the school's authorities yesterday. As for the offender, he seemed to have overcome the upset. Asked if he intended to go on hugging people, he said: "Yep. Sure!"

It was only a matter of time before primary schools in Britain had to draw up rules defining decent conduct, a teacher union said yesterday (David Charter writes).

Some recent high-profile cases of disruptive infants were fuelled by playground jealousies over relationships, said Nigel de Gruy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers.

But none of the main teacher unions has had to advise members on how to keep amorous infants apart. The Education Department knew of no cases where a primary school child had been expelled for kissing a classmate.

MP with penchant for provocation

By James Landale
POLITICAL REPORTER

JEREMY CORBYN, the left-wing MP who has been criticised by the Labour leadership for organising a Commons visit to Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, is nothing if not persistent.

Elected MP for Islington North in June 1983, one of the first things he did was to invite Mr Adams to visit Parliament. Mr Adams had been elected as MP for West Belfast at the same time, but refused to take his seat.

Since then, Mr Corbyn has invited a range of other Sinn Féin supporters and IRA sympathisers to the Commons. Each time he has been reprimanded by the Labour leadership but he has never had the Whip withdrawn.

In autumn 1983, Mr Corbyn tried but failed to secure permission for Mr Adams to speak on the fringe of Labour's annual conference. The next year, he invited two republican spokesmen to

speak at the Commons. The move, which came only two weeks after the Brighton bombing, provoked a rebuke from the then Labour Chief Whip, Michael Cocks. Mr Corbyn was unrepentant, saying he believed that "any MP who wishes to meet people who have points of view to raise must have the right to do that".

In 1987 he employed as a researcher, Ronan Bennett, whose conviction for the murder of an RUC inspector in the 1970s had been quashed on appeal. Mr Bennett later had his Commons security pass withdrawn and Mr Corbyn was given a dressing-down by the Labour Chief Whip, Derek Foster.

Last year, Mr Corbyn invited Mr Adams to the Commons to help him launch another book. Although Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, banned Mr Adams from launching the book, he was permitted to talk about the peace process.

Mr Corbyn has also angered the Labour leadership by sharing platforms with Sinn Féin supporters. He has participated in marches calling for British troops to be pulled out of Northern Ireland and in 1988, he shared a platform with Richard McAuley, a Sinn Féin spokesman, to commemorate the death of the IRA hunger-striker, Bobby Sands.

He has also been a fierce critic of Tony Blair's bipartisan approach to the Northern Ireland peace process.

Despite Mr Corbyn's undoubted sincerity in his support of the republican movement, it also reflects the sympathies of some of his constituents. Islington North has one of the highest numbers of Irish-born residents in the last 25 years.

That the press conference has been proscribed.

While the Labour leadership has dissociated the whole party from the proposed visit, Mr Corbyn was defended by his Labour colleague David Winnick last night. Mr Winnick, who is vice-chairman of the British Irish Parliamentary body, said: "I support his right to hold the meeting but would urge him to engage in tough talking as the prospect of a united Ireland is even more remote than at any time in the last 25 years."

MP faces expulsion

VOGUE

THE BIG NAMES

Go to the Paris fashion shows with **Ruby Wax** Have lunch with **Sandra Bullock** Get dressed with **Donna Karan** Go backstage with **John Galiano**

BE ACTIVE WITH OCTOBER VOGUE

مكتبة من الأصل

Fashion queen's young rivals underdress to impress at opening of London fashion week



Antonio Berardi teased with diaphanous designs

Westwood announces return to London catwalk

By GRACE BRADBERRY
STYLE EDITOR

THE grande dame of British design, Vivienne Westwood, announced yesterday that she would be showing her collections in England for the first time in a decade as London Fashion Week opened with a stunning show by a rising star.

Westwood's change of heart may have been helped by the appearance of designers such as Antonio Berardi, 27, who yesterday seemed to be reaching for her crown as he showed a dazzling and outrageous spring/summer collection in the Crush Bar of the Royal Opera House.

A visible panty line, the *bête noir* of well-dressed women, was a feature of his collection with knickers in contrasting colours beneath diaphanous mini-dresses. One dress was so mini that it ended at waist level at the back and was worn with no knickers at all.

Berardi, who graduated from St Martin's School of Art in 1994, echoed Westwood's style with corset dresses and a mini-crinoline worn over pedal-pushers. For the finale she showed an enormous black chiffon feathered hat with a black and purple mini-dress.



Westwood: linked with French couture house

Berardi a standing ovation as he emerged at the end of the show on the arm of the model Honor Fraser.

Westwood, 55, who made her name as the Queen of Punk in the 1970s, announced that from next March she would show her demi-couture collection in Paris, her menswear in Milan and her Red Label ready-to-wear collection in London.

Her return is another sign that British fashion, and with it London, is undergoing a renaissance. John Rocha and Katharine Hammett, who abandoned London for a few seasons, have also returned.

Still overseas is John Galiano, currently the de-

signer of Givenchy. Westwood had been tipped to follow his lead and take over a French couture house, Christian Dior, after the departure of the Italian designer Gianfranco Ferré next month.

Yesterday's announcement fuelled that speculation. Did Westwood's decision mean that she was trying to re-establish herself as a shockingly original Brit to sway the decision-makers at Dior? Or did it mean that the job had gone elsewhere and she was moving in a new direction?

Half the fashion world believes that Westwood will get the job, the other half believes that it has gone to Galiano, who will move from Givenchy to Dior. In a game of fashion musical chairs, another Briton, Alexander McQueen, would be the favourite for the Givenchy job. McQueen made his name with daring "bumster" trousers.

Whatever happens at Dior, there are plenty of other young Turks besides McQueen snapping at Westwood's heels. Other designers showing yesterday included Ronit Zilkha, a favourite of Cherie Booth, who offered citrus-coloured shorts, tops and shift-dresses and more conservative beige and brown suits. Tanya Sarne of Ghost showed a new line called Saraph, which included long white dresses with a tie-dye-style blue print.

Leading article, page 19



Berardi's "bordello glamour" on display yesterday

Vicar jailed for abusing girl who sought help

By PAUL WILKINSON

A VICAR was jailed yesterday for sexually assaulting a schoolgirl who turned to him for comfort after a previous indecent assault. John Poole looked stunned as Judge Norman Jones, QC, told him that although he was of previously outstanding character and had devoted his life to the Church, he could not overlook the seriousness of the assault.

Bradford Crown Court was told that the 15-year-old girl had been sent to Mr Jones, vicar of St Paul's Church in Shipley, west Yorkshire, for counselling after she was sexually assaulted while at a youth camp.

Under the guise of confirmation classes, Poole, 50, had met the girl on a one-to-one basis. The vicar, who is married with four adult children, pleaded guilty to indecent assault in May 1995. He was jailed for four months.

Michael Bosomworth, for the prosecution, said: "It is not entirely clear what sort of relationship was built up over this period, but it seems to have been a close one. Hugs seem to have been exchanged. Regrettably matters proceeded further."

Poole said that overwork had played a part in the assault, and that he could not understand how it had happened. He told police: "It was as if I was falling into a well."

Roger Thomas, for the defence, said that Poole had left the Church. His wife was standing by him.

Duchess may face questions in court on her private life

By PETER FOSTER

THE Duchess of York faces the prospect of having to answer questions in court about her private life as she tries to ban a book containing details of her relationship with John Bryan, her former financial adviser.

The Duchess has been told to find £500,000 within two weeks to pay into court as security after a judge ruled that the dispute over the publication of *Fergie: Her Secret Life* should be settled in a High Court trial. The book, by Allan Starkie, Mr Bryan's former close friend and business partner, is thought to cover the Yorks' separation, the Duchess's relationship with Mr Bryan, her financial difficulties, and her many schemes to raise money to support her high-spending way of life.

Lawyers acting for the Duchess successfully applied for an injunction against the book last month after Michael O'Mara Books Ltd announced they had signed a deal with Dr Starkie, a former captain in US Army intelligence. Yesterday, after more than four days of legal argument behind closed doors at the High Court, Mr Justice Auld ruled that the injunction should remain in force pending a full trial, to open on October 7. The Duchess could be called to give evidence in person.

The Duchess, who was not in court, was told she must put

up £500,000 by the trial date as security for any damages that might be won by Dr Starkie and Michael O'Mara Books Ltd if she loses the case. Lawyers for O'Mara Books said they would immediately apply for the injunction to be lifted if the Duchess, who has been rumoured to be several millions of pounds in debt, did not produce the cash.

If the Duchess fails, she would also be left with a large legal bill. Mr O'Mara, who also published Andrew Morton's bestselling book *Diana: Her True Story*, said outside the High Court yesterday that he expected the Duchess to give evidence at the hearing. He added that she would have



The front cover of the disputed book

to answer "a lot of questions about her relationship with various people over the past six years".

Lawyers for Mr O'Mara said they would oppose any application by the Duchess to have the trial heard behind closed doors.

The Duchess is to publish her own memoirs in November after signing a reputed £1 million deal with the American publishers Simon and Schuster. She has promised that nothing she writes will embarrass the Royal Family.

Mr O'Mara added that the injunction would not prevent the book being published abroad. Lawyers for the Duchess refused to comment yesterday on any of the events surrounding the case, but it is understood that they are arguing that Dr Starkie has breached confidentiality agreements between himself and the Duchess.

A friend of the Duchess said she was keen to pursue the matter and would find the required £500,000 if that was necessary to continue her case. The sources added: "This has nothing to do with the Duchess trying to promote her own book. The Simon and Schuster book will succeed regardless of other competitors. This is about the legal matter of holding people to confidentiality agreements made between them."

Box of chocolates led to job transfer

By CLAIRE WHITE

A BT executive was transferred from his post after sending a woman colleague a box of chocolates as a Christmas present. Yvonne Laurie complained to her bosses of "unwanted attention".

Miss Laurie, 26, also complained that Anthony Manning, 36, had tried to "re-establish a friendship" with her by sending an electronic message to her computer at work, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Four months after leaving the chocolates, Mr Manning from Shodley, Suffolk, was moved from his job as team leader researching electronic messaging systems for BT in Ipswich. The married father of two, who earns more than £30,000 a year, was transferred to a new post at the BT research station six miles away in Martlesham.

His managers later admitted the transfer was because of his "perceived harassment"

Mr Manning, who still works for BT, is demanding compensation for sexual discrimination on the ground that he was unfairly treated.

"Miss Laurie's complaints against me came after I told her that I considered our friendship was potentially moving in the wrong direction as I was a married man with children," he said. The friendship had "broken down" but he later sent her an e-mail spelling out a decision by managers that their work should be merged. "She claimed I was trying to re-establish a personal friendship. Then when I gave her the chocolates a few months later she complained that I was paying her unwanted attention," he said.

Mr Manning said BT had failed to investigate properly his counterclaim that Miss Laurie's complaints and the stress involved amounted to her harassing him. The hearing was adjourned

Dismissed gamekeeper loses appeal

By RICHARD DUCE

A GAMEKEEPER lost his claim for unfair dismissal yesterday after complaints that he ruined the shooting for wealthy clients on an estate.

David Baker, acting for Howard Green, 33, the gamekeeper, said after the tribunal ruling in Exeter: "It just goes to show the way of the country is still ruled by the big house, and people who work in the country are just serfs."

The tribunal had been told by Major Ranulph Rayner, 61, owner of the Ashcombe estate in Devon, that Mr Green's behaviour had become intolerable after he appeared on a BBC documentary in 1994.

Brian Walton, the tribunal chairman, said Major Rayner had caused to complain about the running of the shoot although there was evidence of a conspiracy to sack Mr Green. The tribunal held that Major Rayner acted fairly because he reasonably believed there had been miscom-

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Suspected terrorist in custody in London thought to be associate of IRA chief of staff

O'Neill was wanted for Dockland bomb attack

BY AUDREY MAGEE

DIARMUID O'Neill, the IRA suspect shot dead by police on Monday, was wanted in connection with the Docklands bomb in east London which ended the 17-month paramilitary ceasefire, according to Garda sources yesterday.

Senior Irish police in Cork said that O'Neill, 27, was recognised as a significant figure in the IRA six months ago. Irish and British police became aware of him in 1988 when he embezzled £75,000 from a Bank of Ireland branch in London, lodging £40,000 in a Dublin bank account for the IRA. He faded into the background after serving six months of a one-year sentence.

O'Neill again became the focus of police attention during investigations into the Docklands bomb in February in which two people died. Police believe that O'Neill was involved in planting the bomb and had been seeking him in connection with this and other IRA attacks.

He shared his one-bedroom flat, which overlooks Hammersmith police station in west London, with a Spanish girlfriend called Karnele Ereno, the company that manages the property said. Señora Ereno was a previous tenant and continued a relationship



O'Neill, who could trace his republican lineage back to Domhnall O Buachalla and Easter 1916

with O'Neill after he took the tenancy. Police sources said O'Neill was recruited by the IRA in London. From the age of 15 he sold *An Phoblacht*, Republican News, in pubs in Kilburn and Cricklewood, northwest London suburbs with sizeable Irish communities.

O'Neill was a regular visitor to Co Cork where his parents had a cottage. The couple retired to the property in Kilbrin 18 months ago. Locals said yesterday it would be inappropriate for O'Neill to be buried near a village that has no affiliation with the IRA. O'Neill spent

implicated in a number of robberies in Co Fermanagh in the late 1980s.

The republican influence that turned O'Neill into a suspected IRA volunteer stretches back to the 1916 Easter Rising in which his reputed great-uncle took part. Friends of his O'Neills in Cork say they talk proudly of Domhnall O Buachalla, a member of the first Dail Eireann (Irish Parliament).

O'Neill's paternal grandmother was related to O Buachalla, who was a member of the Irish Volunteers, the forerunners of the IRA. O Buachalla, who died in 1963, led a detachment of Volunteers from his home in Maynooth, Co Kildare, into action in Dublin. After being interned for his part in the rising he was elected as Sinn Fein MP for Kildare in the 1918 general election in which the party won well over 50 per cent of the vote in Ireland. As a republican he refused to take his seat at Westminster and sat in what Sinn Fein called the first Dail Eireann in 1919.

O Buachalla opposed the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 which divided Ireland, and supported the Irregulars, the anti-Treaty IRA activists, during the Irish civil war between 1922-23. He was a friend of Eamon de Valera, the Repub-



O'Neill's flat, the top two windows above the bookmakers, which overlooked Hammersmith police station

lic's former Prime Minister and President, with whom he founded the Fianna Fail party in the late 1920s.

At De Valera's request, O Buachalla served as Governor-General between 1932-37 when the newly-independent Irish Free State was nominally a British dominion. O Buachalla did not reside at the vice-regal lodge, but in a house in south Dublin and commuted on a bicycle.

Diarmuid O'Neill, whose

family origins lie in the republican-steeped history of west Cork but who spent his life in west London, also seems to have regarded the Provisional IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands as a hero.

Sands, the gunman who won the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election in 1981, died shortly afterwards in the Maze prison after having refused to sanction food and medical intervention for 66 days.

Family may want an independent post-mortem

BY STAFF REPORTERS

THE family of Diarmuid O'Neill are considering a second independent post-mortem examination, it emerged yesterday as republican groups began questioning the circumstances of the shooting.

Police sources maintain the police action was justified. O'Neill was unarmed when he was hit by six bullets.

Dr John Burton, coroner for west London, opened and adjourned the inquest into O'Neill's death after announcing that the evidence would have to be considered by a jury. O'Neill died after police raids in London that yielded more than ten tons of homemade explosives.

Dr Burton said he was also waiting to find out what the family wanted. One message suggested they wanted to take the body to Ireland for burial but another from the family's solicitors, Birnberg & Co, asked if Dr Burton's officers could retain the body for a second post-mortem examination.

An independent investigation into the shooting will be held by the Police Complaints Authority. Between 15 and 20 armed officers were involved in the raid on a guesstimate in Glenthorne Road, Hammersmith, west London, where O'Neill was staying. All the officers were warned beforehand that they could face armed terrorists at the address and it would be the most

dangerous assignment of the various raids. The officer who opened fire on O'Neill was a constable with the Yard's SO19 specialist firearms unit. He believed that O'Neill was about to threaten his life and the lives of other officers he was with. He and all the other officers have made statements about the shooting and been offered legal advice by the Police Federation.

Yesterday the five men arrested during the raids were still being questioned by anti-terrorist branch officers at Paddington Green police station as police were given an extension to hold them under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for a further 72 hours. One of them is O'Neill's brother Shane. Diarmuid was living above a shop in Fulham Palace Road, a quarter of a mile from the guesthouse where he died.

As Father Malachy Loughran, a local priest, described how the O'Neill family had been well known in the area, there were fears that Diarmuid O'Neill's death would be exploited. Already a picket has been mounted by 30 members of *Fuascailt*, the Irish Political Prisoners Campaign, at Paddington Green police station.

The group, which says it takes advice from Sinn Fein, is protesting about an alleged "shoot to kill" policy by the Government.

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We don't want to say, in the middle of the fish course, 'Go and move the car' Drive feud drove neighbours to court

By RICHARD DUCE

RETIREMENT for a former Cambridge professor and his wife passed in rural tranquility for almost a decade until a family doctor and his children moved in next door.

Jasper and Jean Rose had always parked their Volkswagen in the courtyard outside the front door of their converted mansion house home. All that changed when James Hampton bought the £300,000 conversion next door at the mansion near Trowbridge, Wiltshire, and with it the ownership of the 200-yard driveway, Bristol County Court was told.

Until then Professor Rose, 66, and his wife Jean were content to entertain friends and play the piano in the music room. Apart from her painting Mrs Rose also enjoyed being able to sweep up the drive in her car and park outside the front door.

Dr Hampton decided that the Roses should no longer park outside their own front door on the driveway because it blocked his view of the surrounding countryside.

The lengthy dispute that followed over who should be allowed to park where descended into allegation of rudeness against the three young Hampton children and claims that the doctor chopped back the Roses' beech hedge. Professor Rose went on to claim that cars were deliberately boxed in and loud music



Dr Hampton and his wife Jaqueline, left, arriving at court yesterday, and the Roses outside their home. They moved to the country for the peace



led him to call in environmental health officers.

Eventually he issued a writ against Dr Hampton, a GP in Bath, which led the two men to the County in Bristol where, after two days of argument, they decided to settle. Details of the agreement were not released but it is understood that Dr Hampton will allow Professor Rose to park on the drive when it is "reasonably necessary".

Judge Weeks, QC, told them: "I am glad you have eventually reached agreement between yourselves."

The Roses moved to Wingfield House, a Grade II building, in 1986 when Profes-

sor Rose returned from working at the University of California. He left his Cambridge professorship in 1963.

He told the court: "I moved there because it was out in the country and quite peaceful. But how pleased we were that the house next door was going to be occupied. Children always smile and laugh and say amusing and funny things — but they said some very rude things to me."

"Things deteriorated badly. We had two elderly ladies to lunch, both widows. One was not well. They had parked outside our front door. During the course of lunch Dr Hampton rang up and spoke to my

wife. Our guests left and as they left he came out and shouted at my wife. I cannot say that we have enjoyed good relations since then."

Charles Auld, for the Hamptons, asked Professor Rose if he behaved as if he was the lord of the manor. He replied: "I am astonished. I don't think that I am the lord of the manor. It is not a manor house and I spent a lot of time in the USA."

Professor Rose also rejected a compromise where he was allowed to park for an hour to unload and load his car. "We need to come and go without this timetable. A timetable of that kind is quite unsuitable

for a place like this. When we have people to dinner, we don't want the moment that they arrive — scantily-clothed in winter — to have to go and park their car elsewhere. We want to say 'Come in'. We don't want to say, in the middle of the fish course, 'Go and move the car'."

He also claimed that Dr Hampton, without permission and while he was on holiday, chopped back his beech hedge, which stretched 80 yards along the drive. "The cutting back of the hedge has been a devastation. I have become friendly towards my hedge. When you look after trees, you begin to feel for them."

After the settlement, Dr Hampton said: "We want to sell the property but how could we when someone is effectively parking in your front garden? When he parked in front of our house, he blocked our view from the kitchen window. How would you like a car parked outside your house all the time?"

"As to destroying his hedge, it was growing onto our land and becoming a menace. We had to cut it back. We are saddened that this came to court. We have settled with goodwill on both sides. We remain on good terms with our neighbours."

Gang fight was to be a laugh, says boy witness

By JOANNA BAILE

A SCHOOLBOY played truant to take part in a gang fight that allegedly led to the murder of the headmaster Philip Lawrence because he heard it would be "a laugh", the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

"I thought if I tagged along, it might be funny. I did not really want to stay at school that day," said the boy, now 16. He had played truant from his North London school after being approached in the playground by a friend accompanied by another boy he did not know but who had a Chinese tattoo on his left hand.

The schoolboy witness was described in court by John Bevan, the prosecutor, as courageous for agreeing to give evidence against the gang. Describing himself as an occasional truant, the boy said he met the gang members at a Burger King restaurant in Euston — a regular meeting place for gang members.

There he met the 16-year-old boy who is now accused of murdering Mr Lawrence and who he knew to be the gang leader. Mr Bevan asked him: "What was your understanding of what was going to happen?" He replied: "Just a playground fight really."

At the restaurant he was shown a metal bar in a sport's bag carried by his friend in the gang. "It was black, about 30 to 40cm long... it looked like a gearstick for a truck."

The schoolboy then described how the gang leader organised the 11 or 12 members into groups of three. "He put us into groups and told us what we were going there for... to find a boy to beat up."

The tattooed boy, who was at the time a pupil at Mr Lawrence's school, St George's in Maida Vale, northwest London, told the gang the layout of the school and that the headmaster would be at the front gate. The gang travelled by Tube to the school and as they walked towards it the boy giving evidence told his friend that he wanted to leave because "someone had mentioned something about a gun", which the intended victim's friends were going to bring.

The boy lagged behind the gang to talk to a girl he knew from the school. He turned round at the communion and saw the iron bar being struck down twice but could not tell who was involved.

He then saw a boy, believed to be the 13-year-old victim run off, followed by members of the gang. He caught up with them and the gang leader joined them and confessed to stabbing Mr Lawrence.

The older boy denies murder. He and another boy, now 15, also deny conspiring to cause Mr Lawrence grievous bodily harm and wounding him. The case continues.



Hill is caught on video as he plays for his team

Video shots cost cheat his big score

A MAN who won £11,000 damages by fraudulently claiming he tripped on a defective pavement has been ordered to pay the money back after he was filmed playing football.

Peter Hill, 30, was also told to pay £1,100 interest to Liverpool City Council. Hill, of Netherley, Liverpool, was awarded the money in March last year after convincing Liverpool County Court he had damaged a knee. But the council decided to trap him on video and apply for the case to be retried when his name appeared as a goalscorer for his Sunday team in the local paper.

Judge Hamilton said: "There used to be a gibe 'drink is the ruin of the working classes' but now it might be said 'the video is the ruin of the cheating classes.'"

Troubled police force sacks sex case officer

By PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICEMAN has been sacked for improper behaviour at the same police station where sexual harassment of a woman officer cost their force £165,000 compensation.

The uniformed constable, based at Harrogate, was ordered to resign after an internal disciplinary hearing found him guilty on four charges, including harassing women colleagues.

A spokesman for the North Yorkshire force said yesterday that there was no connection with the case of Libby Ashurst, 27, the detective constable whose career was ruined by harassment from some of her male colleagues in the Harrogate CID office. In a related case PC Amanda Rose received more than £10,000.

Last night a North Yorkshire Police spokesman said that details of the charges and penalties were only for the officer involved and the disciplinary panel.

It is understood that the 32-year-old officer, who lives in Knaresborough, was dismissed after complaints from three women officers about his behaviour, in particular the derogatory way the PC referred to them.

Their complaints were heard personally by David Burke, the Chief Constable, who found all four charges proved and asked for the PC's resignation.



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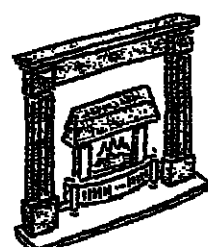
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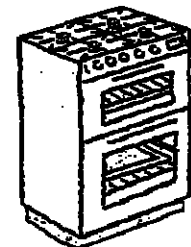
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BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

He would not comment specifically on the statements

Barristers had to conduct themselves in court with an eye to everyone else involved in proceedings, she added. "You can't just fling mud about."



By ALAN HAMILTON

Amateur

Lady Maclean, Sir Fitzroy's widow, is greeted by Winston Churchill, MP, at the memorial service yesterday.

packed with adventure and danger. "There was a magic that made him accessible to all sorts and conditions of men and women: debutantes, dromedary drivers, statesmen, top service members, partisan fighters, beautiful and clever women, the private soldier and the shepherd on the hills of Strachur [Sir Fitzroy's Scottish home]. Yet with all his approachability he had an intrinsic detachment and reserve, not easy to

Members of the SAS, even in retirement, do not often put their heads above the parapet, but they were well represented at the service for one of their distinguished founders, Major General Jeremy Phipps, a former director of the SAS, read the lesson from Psalm 121, much loved by Scots: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills."

found themselves murmuring in prayer the regimental collect of the SAS that includes the words, "... grant that the chosen members of the SAS Regiment may by our works and ways dare to win all ..."

As Lady Soames said in a final tribute to the most active of men, it is difficult to conceive of Sir Fitzroy in a state of perpetual restlessness.

Memorial service, page 20

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

Two large stone piers, one visible just a foot below the surface of the River Forth at low tide, have been discovered by Dr Ron Page, a retired lecturer from Stirling University. He used nothing more than a rowing boat a 108

metal probe and a glass-bottomed bucket to view the riverbed in his original investigations.

Yesterday the British Geological Survey used sonar equipment to map the underwater sandbanks to see if more piers were buried there. If they find what they are looking for, a full marine archaeological dig will take place next year.

The exact whereabouts of

the ancient bridge, site of one of the most important battles in Scottish history, had been a mystery. The 28ft piers found by Dr Page are thought to be two of eight foundation blocks on to which the original wooden bridge was built, possibly in the year 800.

The bridge is believed to have been destroyed in 1297 by the retreating English to prevent Wallace pursuing them south. The English had an

By RICHARD DUCE

THE body of a missing British army officer has been discovered in a remote area of New Mexico, three days after an escaped convict admitted witnessing his murder.

The body of Major David Nichols, 53, was found under rocks and branches close to the village of Villanueva, east of Albuquerque. The FBI said yesterday that it was believed he had been killed by two gunshots to the head.

Major Nichol, a father of three who was separated from his wife, disappeared while touring the United States before attending a languages conference. His rented car was found in a lake in Indiana on June 22 and Yeadon and Thompson were arrested the following month.

The convicted criminals had escaped after overpowering a deputy sheriff as they were taken to court in Alabama.

Yeadon said to rob Major Nichols but that Thompson had opened fire. Yeadon has been charged with stealing the major's car.

Brigadier Allan Thomson, director of Educational and Army Training Services, said: "Major Nichols was a respected and dedicated officer who gave great service to education in the Army, particularly in the field of language training."

£2m win claimed

An anonymous syndicate has claimed a £2 million Irish lottery win, ending weeks of speculation about the winner's identity. The ticket was bought on Achill island on August 27 but was assumed lost, causing hundreds of locals to search for it.

Police bike stolen

Three youths stole a policeman's bicycle after threatening him with a screwdriver. Chief Superintendent John Potts, in charge of the Salford division of Greater Manchester Police, was stopped in Worsley. Greater Manchester, on his way to work.

Vicar charged

An Anglican clergyman appeared at Northampton Magistrates' Court charged with taking nearly £38,000 from church funds. The Rev Martyn Davis, 37, who faces five theft and two deception charges, was granted unconditional bail.

Masked killers

Masked gunmen shot a man dead at a card game and injured two others. Shots were fired after three men burst into a house in Leyton, east London, and ordered one of the players to remove his jewellery. Another man was hit with the butt of a gun.

Teacher accused

A teacher has been suspended after being accused of dangerous use of an air rifle during a physics lesson. The teacher, from Cheltenham Bournside School, Gloucestershire, allegedly used the gun to illustrate a talk on velocity.

CORRECTIONS

□ Professor Jerzy Wdowczyk (obituary, September 23) is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son; his birthplace was Sosnica.

□ A Diary item (September 23) on Dr Anne Lee omitted to mention that she was joining Queenswood, the independent girls' school, as a governor.

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Operations and drugs may carry warning of risk

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

SURGICAL procedures and medical drugs could in future carry a risk rating to help patients to assess the chance of anything going wrong.

Risks would be ranked from negligible, defined as less than one chance in a million, to high, more than one chance in 100. Between those extremes risks would be ranked as minimal, very low, low, or moderate.

Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, proposed the risk ratings in his annual report on the nation's health published yesterday, in which "safe" implies some risk.

The latest edition of the Oxford Pocket Dictionary defines "safe" as "free of danger or injury" or "secure, not risky", but the new Whitehall definition describes "safe" as "negligible risk". Sir Kenneth said that the public and professionals were confused by the range of words used to describe risks. As no human

activity is free from risk, Sir Kenneth said it was appropriate to use the word "safe" in association with a negligible risk.

The aim of the risk table, which Sir Kenneth said was for discussion and could be amended, was to try to get the same words used for the same risk so that individuals could make informed judgments.

The table shows that the risk of dying from leukaemia, classed as very low at one chance in 12,000, is less than half the risk of dying of flu, classed as low at one chance in 5,000, although leukaemia is more greatly feared. Sir Kenneth acknowledged that if risk labels were applied, they would have to take account of the seriousness of the condition and whether it was acceptable, avoidable or justifiable.

Although there were no plans to label drugs and operations with their level of risk, Sir Kenneth said that it would be possible. "It is an im-

portant issue. We don't do it at the moment. But if people agree to the classification that could be developed."

On the basis of the league table, the risk of getting Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from eating beef would be classified as "unknown" and likely to be negligible, Sir Kenneth said. That meant eating beef was safe. "If the word safe is used it must be seen to mean negligible, but should not imply no, or zero, risk," he added.

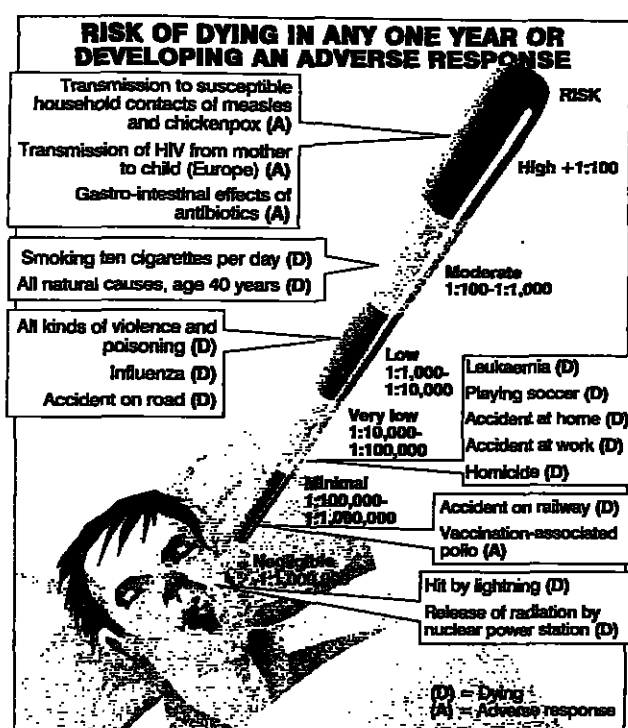
Sir Kenneth said the Health Department had learnt "a lot of lessons" from last year's scare over the contraceptive Pill when evidence emerged that women taking seven brands of the combined Pill, containing progestogen and oestrogen, were at twice the risk of suffering blood clots in the veins of the legs.

The evidence showed that among a million women taking the combined Pill, three were likely to die from a blood clot compared with 1.5 among a million women taking the older type of Pill. In pregnancy the risk of death from a blood clot is six in a million. Sir Kenneth says in the report: "The message to continue to take the Pill seemed to be ignored in the pressure for action."

Deciding what risks to run was a matter of individual choice. Although the chances of winning the lottery jackpot were put at one in 14 million — "negligible" on the league table — millions nevertheless chose to buy tickets each week.

In his report, Sir Kenneth says the health of the population in England is improving, with deaths from breast cancer, suicide and accidents to children under 15 all down. However, deaths among males aged 15 to 44 rose by 5 per cent between 1985 and 1995, chiefly as a result of violence, suicide and Aids.

On the State of the Public Health 1995 (HMSO, £16.50)



Fireman Ian Campbell, who fought to get his job back, with Jo Partington, a British Heart Foundation nurse

A FIREMAN who had a heart attack while fighting a blaze had to battle for six months to get his job back (Jeremy Laurance writes).

Ian Campbell, 36, went through a string of appeals to overcome the stigma attached to cardiac disease and prove to the Buckinghamshire brigade that he was fit for duty. Mr Campbell, who returned to work in July 1992 after a ten-month absence, is the first fireman to be accepted back after a heart attack.

He said: "I remember lying in hospital and overbearing one of the senior officers telling my parents that was

Beating the stigma of cardiac disease

the end of my career. That got me. Like most firemen, I do it because I love it."

The prejudice surrounding heart disease means that many victims have to give up work even when they are physically capable of doing it, the British Heart Foundation said yesterday. Nearly half of people under 65 who suffer a heart attack or undergo heart surgery have to

stop work, according to a survey.

Professor Brian Pentecost, the foundation's medical director, said: "There is a lot of stigma attached to heart disease and it can be difficult for sufferers to hold on to their jobs or obtain lighter work. Employers are more likely to take someone with an excellent health record."

Dr Pentecost's comments

came as the foundation launched a scheme to support heart patients at home after their discharge from hospital which, it is claimed, could save thousands of lives a year.

Fifteen specialist nurses will visit patients at home to give advice on diet, exercise and drug treatment. The £1 million pilot scheme could be extended if successful.

Professor Pentecost said: "About a third of heart attack survivors die of a second attack within five years. We would hope to reduce deaths by between a third and a quarter."

Frozen heart brought back to life

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AN end to organ transplant waiting lists could be in sight after scientists successfully froze and thawed a rat's heart. The breakthrough may have come from a team led by Michelle Visser, head of research at Pretoria University's thoracic surgery department, whose findings are to be published in *Cryobiology*.

Researchers are in a race to find a way to freeze organs so that organ banks can

be set up. In traditional freezing methods, heart and kidney tissue is damaged by ice crystals.

Dr Visser said they have developed a "cryoprotectant" liquid, a sort of biological antifreeze, that can be pumped into an organ. The liquid, details of which are being kept secret, is non-toxic and, unlike water, does not rupture cells as it freezes, she said.

The rat's heart was cooled to minus 196C before being brought back, beating perfectly, to room temperature. It is not

known for how long it was frozen, but freezing any organ for just a few minutes normally causes severe damage. A transplant of a pig's heart into a live animal is planned before the end of the year, according to *New Scientist*.

The research was part-funded by the Alcor Life Extension Foundation in Phoenix, Arizona, one of several organisations that freezes bodies in the hope they can be brought back to life. Among those whose bodies are in a cryogenic state is Walt Disney.

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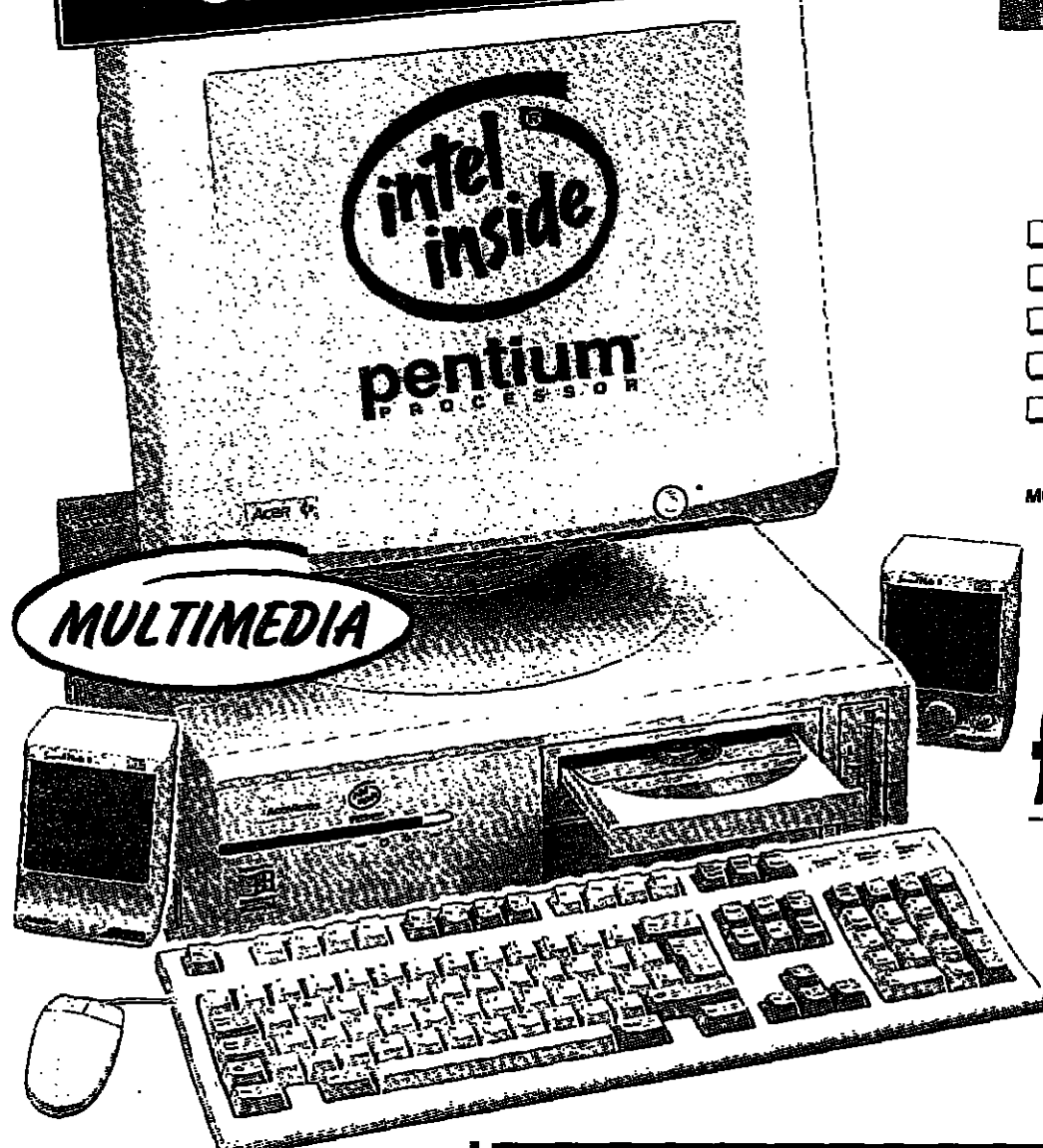
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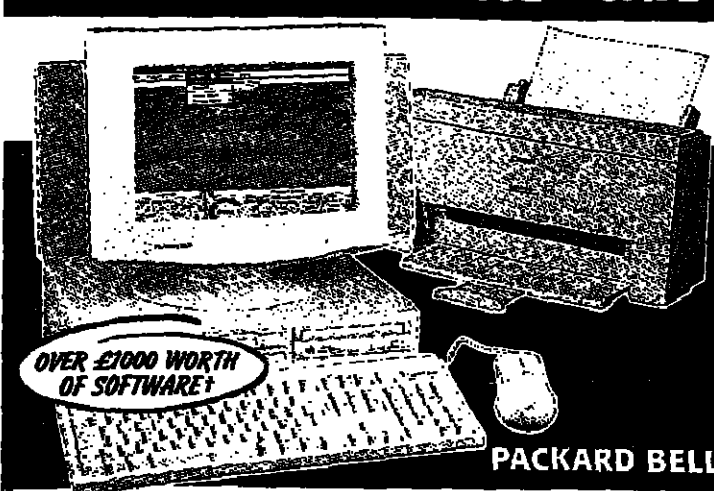
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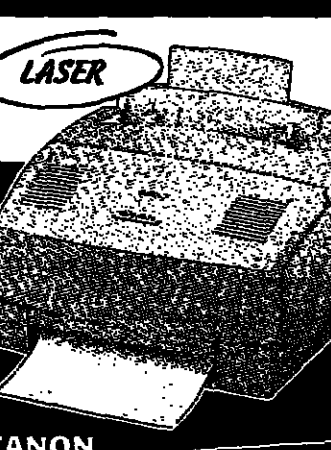
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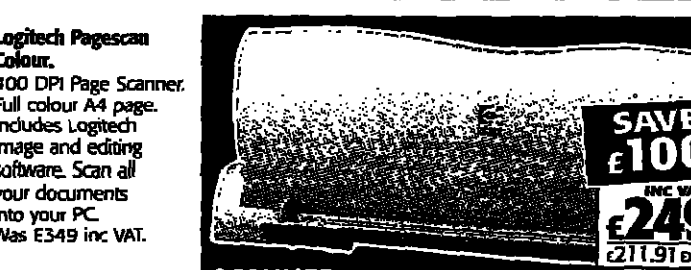
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Artists raise fresh doubts on gallery's Rubens masterpiece

Euphrosyne Doxiadis, an artist and scholar, and the painters Steven Harvey and

They say that the composition is awkward, primarily in the way that Samson's right foot has been sliced off, and say that a master inspired by

The National Gallery declined to comment. Christie's said it was unable to contact the relevant specialist to discuss the matter.



Samson and Delilah, which was attributed to Rubens as late as 1929. It is said to have been painted in 1609

BY NICK NUTTALL

Scientists at Adelaide University report in *Nature* that the lotus, *Nelumbo nucifera*, regulates its temperature between 30C and 35C by stepping up or slowing down chemical reactions involving the burning of sugars, even when air temperature is as low as 10C.

He added: "If a vaccine

Dr Maskell praised Marks & Spencer for endowing the professorship rather than using its money to fund specific projects. He was appointed by the university and will work independently, pursuing his own research.

The price of new terraced houses is up by 13.6 per cent from £57,398 a year ago to £65,184 now. The figures are viewed as authoritative as, by law, all sales are registered with the Land Registry. Other

Older detached properties have risen in price by 1.1 per cent; older semi-detached houses by 2 per cent and older


He also called for them to work openly: "Bishops share the responsibility of keeping the Church visible and prepared to serve the common good and the wider community for the sake of Jesus Christ."



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Boston bluebloods duel in battle to control Senate

FROM TOM RHODES IN BOSTON

IN A small Boston hall and surrounded by teenagers, the two political titans of Massachusetts resembled a pair of Gullivers addressing the parliament in Lilliput.

Each measuring 6ft 4in, William Weld, the state's Republican Governor, and John Kerry, the Democratic senator, offered a startling contrast in style to 400 high school pupils handpicked for the latest duel in what is becoming the hottest Senate race in America.

The similarity does not end there. The two multimillionaires represent the cream of their generation, both are highly articulate, Ivy League-educated, and belong to the patrician families who can trace their ancestry back to the Founding Fathers. They sail and fish at their private resorts and consort with the richest in America.

Their wives — Susan Weld, a Roosevelt relation, and Teresa Heinz, heiress to the \$750 million (£483 million) ketchup fortune — are well connected and adept at campaigning for their husbands. Observers believe that whoever wins in November could surface as a presidential candidate at the turn of the century.

At a national level, this election is critical for both parties. Massachusetts is a bedrock liberal state where

voters identify themselves as Democrat by three to one, and where President Clinton leads by more than 20 per cent.

If the Democrats have any hope of regaining control of the Senate, they cannot afford to lose this race. Republicans, on the other hand, see a victory in Massachusetts as an embarrassment for President Clinton and the first sign of a trend of new conservatism that could see the party back at the White House in 2000 if Bob Dole loses in November.

Opinion polls show the race to be a statistical dead heat. But it was here, on the stump, that the differences became apparent. Mr Kerry, 52, the decorated Vietnam veteran and former disciple of President Kennedy, appeared stiff and awkward as he talked of political and personal sacrifice, of education, the environment and housing.

Mr Weld, 51, on the other hand, connected immediately with an audience that was far from his natural constituency. Unlike Mr Kerry's unfocused and plodding message, the Governor stuck to the combination of fiscal conservatism and social libertarianism that has made him popular in the past six years.

He talked of balancing the budget during his first year in office, of cutting taxes, reducing the growth rate of Medi-

aid, introducing the most stringent welfare legislation in the nation and eliminating thousands of state jobs. But he also talked of being pro-choice on abortion and of his concerns about teenage pregnancy.

Conventional wisdom suggests the Governor may be too popular for his own good and people will vote for Mr Kerry to keep both men in office. A third, arch-conservative candidate, Susan Gallagher, may siphon some votes from Mr Weld.

But a recent poll showed that most people in the state want to change their senator and there is still a suspicion about his wife's fortune. The Clinton campaign is concerned. George Stephanopoulos, the President's senior political adviser, and Robert Reich, the Labour Secretary, toured Boston last weekend on behalf of Mr Kerry.

This weekend Mr Clinton will join Whoopi Goldberg and Christopher Reeve, the film stars, to campaign in a state where, under normal circumstances, he would never need to show his face.

"It is a difficult race, because it's not only being run on the success or failure of Newt Gingrich and Robert Dole, it's a major test of the President's strength," Mr Stephanopoulos said.



A group of Palestinians attacking Israeli troops from the shelter of a van in the West Bank yesterday

Netanyahu asks Cairo to calm tensions

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the Israeli Prime Minister, is to appeal to President Mubarak of Egypt to calm the tensions in the Middle East that have been provoked by riots and shootings in the wake of the opening of a tunnel in Jerusalem.

Complaining of "wild and unfounded accusations", the Prime Minister added during a visit to France that he might

also speak to Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, if necessary.

Before arriving in Paris yesterday, he told the BBC Today programme that his Government would help with the infrastructure of settlements for an additional 800 Jews in the occupied territories, but said he was not "carting the people in".

He was committed to the Oslo agreements, which allowed for the natural growth of Arab and Jewish communities.

Mr Netanyahu's remarks came after a Downing Street meeting at which John Major expressed Britain's concern that the Middle East peace process was in danger. Both men later described their talks as "frank and candid", which is diplomatic code for plain speaking and disagreement.

Britain has been concerned by the tone of Mr Netanyahu's remarks on relations with the Arabs, and is worried by the lack of practical progress on the ground.

The violence in Jerusalem came as Mr Netanyahu arrived in Paris on the second leg of his European tour. In Paris, as in Bonn, there are similar worries over growing tensions in the Middle East. He told the BBC he had inherited a peace agreement that he did not like, but he was going to pursue peace and the accords signed by his predecessor. "I have not alienated anyone," he said. "I am sorry about the high-blown rhetoric in some quarters in Egypt."

Clinton is accused of 'silencing' McDougal

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

INDIGNATION was growing in Washington yesterday over President Clinton's failure to rule out pardons for Whitewater defendants and the refusal of one of them, Susan McDougal, to testify whether he told the truth about a fraudulent loan.

Mrs McDougal, 41, who is serving an indeterminate sentence for contempt of court in Arkansas, has, with the help of prison guards, become a cell-block media queen, conducting interviews from Faulkner County Jail.

Her lament, and Mr Clinton's non-committal answer when asked about post-election Whitewater pardons, has been pounced on by Republicans who see an issue voters will understand, and condemn.

John Mica, a Republican congressman, accused the President of offering Mrs McDougal an inducement to remain silent. She was a partner with the Clintons and her former husband in the Whitewater land speculation.

Robert Walker, another Republican in Congress who frequently berates Mr Clinton, said the spectacle has offered hope of a pardon to all those who decline to co-operate with Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor.

Mrs McDougal refused to answer Mr Starr's questions before a grand jury over whether Mr Clinton lied during videotaped evidence at her trial that he did not know a government-backed loan she received for \$300,000 (£193,000) was fraudulent.

She has said she knows nothing to substantiate allegations of criminal wrongdoing by Mr or Mrs Clinton and refuses to help Mr Starr in his apparent pursuit of perjury charges against the couple. Mr Clinton has also taken aim at Mr Starr, a Republican, accusing him of pressuring Mrs McDougal to give damaging testimony against the Clintons, even if false.

Conjecture that Mrs McDougal was attempting to pressure the President while he was signalling to her to keep quiet was taking hold yesterday as US radio chat show fodder, propelling White House aides into urgent damage control. They insisted Mr Clinton was "absolutely not" holding the door open to pardons and had given the idea no consideration.

It would be an unprecedented advancement of the power to pardon for a President to exonerate anyone involved in an investigation in which he was already implicated. Joseph di Genova, former federal prosecutor in Washington, said it would be a ground for impeachment.

World Bank fails the 'green' test

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PROJECTS that damage the environment, including mining, forestry and power-generation schemes, are still being funded by the World Bank seven years after it agreed to reform its lending policies in the light of green concerns.

A damning internal report, written by bank staff and based on studies in eight countries, has concluded that attempts to balance the economic needs of developing countries with the needs of plant and animal life are often failing. It indicates that highly damaging schemes such as the Polonsky rural development project, which in the 1980s devastated swaths of western Amazonia triggering violent clashes, are still happening — albeit on a smaller scale.

The report says that assessments of the environmental impact of bank-funded schemes are often made too late to have any real influence

on the development of the project. In the meantime, serious alternatives to schemes are scrutinised only cosmetically. Even when a proper environmental investigation is carried out, the recommendations are often not put into action.

The document, details of which are disclosed as the World Bank meets in Washington for its fourth summit on environmentally acceptable development, adds: "Projects reviewed by the study often generated massive documents that are of little use."

□ Geneva: A sharp increase in the costs of vaccination imposed by pharmaceutical companies is threatening immunisation programmes and the development of potential new vaccines against diseases such as Aids, the World Health Organisation and Unicef said yesterday (Peter Capella writes).

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THE TIMES

Student forces triple assault to take...

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Student rebel forces launch triple assault to take Kabul

By ZAHID HUSSAIN

TALEBAN militia closed in on Kabul, the Afghan capital, yesterday as the fundamentalist student movement's fighters fought a fierce battle with government forces three miles from the city centre.

The group launched a three-pronged attack on Kabul after routing government forces in the strategic town of Sarobi, 45 miles from the capital, on Tuesday night.

The forces of President Rabbani were fighting last-ditch battles to defend the city as Taleban fighters attacked from the east, south and southwest. Government jets bombed Taleban forces assaulting a customs post three miles outside the city. Government sources said that there was heavy fighting around the post. The fall of the customs office would eliminate the last resistance by government troops.

The Kabul administration has repeatedly accused Pakistan of backing Taleban and providing it with arms and food. President Rabbani's Government has also alleged that Taleban's fighters are mainly students based in Pakistan and that it has received aircraft from Pakistani intelligence. A Taleban cargo plane landed at Badram airport near Kabul on Tuesday which, according to Kabul, carried seven Pakistani military personnel. The captured Pakistanis would be presented to the press, an administration spokesman said.

Pakistan has rejected Kabul's allegation. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said that no Pakistani was involved in the fighting in Afghanistan. He also denied that the Taleban fighters crossed the border from Pakistan.

The Taleban militia movement emerged as a major force in the Afghan civil war at the end of 1994. It consists of Afghan students, from madressas (religious schools) mostly based in Pakistan. A large number of them had

participated in the Afghan war against Soviet troops. Taleban came into prominence when its fighters stormed Kandahar in southern Afghanistan early last year, and from there they swept across southern and western Afghanistan.

More than half of Afghanistan was under Taleban's control by the end of 1995. Initially, Afghans who were disgruntled with the ruling warlords welcomed Taleban forces, but support began to vanish as they imposed tough discipline. They enforced strict Sharia (Islamic law) and banned women's education and music. Taleban's first attempt to capture Kabul last year failed and leading Afghan factions, including that of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, joined hands with his old foe, Mr Rabbani. Mr Hekmatyar became Prime Minister. However, after regrouping its forces, Taleban came back to eastern Afghanistan last month for their second onslaught on Kabul. Two weeks ago, they captured one of Afghanistan's second largest cities, Jalalabad.

There is clear evidence of Pakistani support for Taleban which has its main headquarters in the western Pakistani city of Quetta. Most of the fighters are under the influence of Pakistani religious and political organisations. Islamabad intensified its support for Taleban after its relations with the Rabbani Government worsened following the attack on the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul last year.

Most observers believe a Taleban victory is not likely to bring peace in Afghanistan, but may lead to yet more bloodshed. There is also a fear that the capture of Kabul by Taleban could lead to more active interference from Iran. □ New York: The United Nations Security Council has agreed to hold an emergency meeting to discuss Afghanistan after a request from Kabul. (AP)



Bearing the Argentine tramps' banner, Mario Alonso, left, Juan Podesta and Pedro Ribeiro follow a railway track towards Mar del Plata

Philosopher tramps debate reasons to be idle

By GABRIELLA GAMINI
SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of tramps and bag ladies are converging on the Argentine seaside resort of Mar del Plata to take part in an international conference to discuss topics such as the "right to be lazy" and "how to get a balanced diet from restaurant scraps".

The World Conference for Vagabonds, organised by an Argentine group of tramps and travellers, started on Monday and ends on Sunday with

a barn dance. It has attracted people from all over South America.

"It's taken me some time to get here," said Arturo Somosa, 48, from neighbouring Paraguay. "I set out from Asunción two months ago, walked some of the way, and managed to hitch some of the way."

Most dragged their belongings along the 250-mile motorway leading from the capital, Buenos Aires, to the beach resort, where they have taken up every spare alcove or doorway, sleeping rough despite chilly, gale-

force winds at night. "We've organised this to let everyone know that we are not just simple beggars or dirty layabouts. Most are ex-professionals who decided to take up another way of life," said Pedro Ribeiro, the event organiser and a former teacher.

He added that they had been discussing "tramp philosophy" and "life without frivolities" and would issue a final document to strengthen their commitment to "anti-consumerism". He said: "We've invited nutritionists to give lectures on how to get a

healthy diet from scraps. By living without frivolities and recycling everything that we can get our hands on, we are also doing our bit to help the world's ailing environment."

The tramps identify with a community of travellers formed in the 1920s called the Crotoles after a Buenos Aires governor, José Camilo Croto, who gave free rail passes to those left without jobs or homes by a recession so they could seek work elsewhere. Instead thousands used the incentive to start a life of "idleness".

Pornography Net surfer fined

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A SINGAPORE court has fined a man for downloading obscene pictures from the Internet, the first person to be convicted since the Government said that it would censor what people can see on the global computer network.

According to *The Straits Times*, Lai Chee Chuen, 41, pleaded guilty to charges of collecting scores of pornographic pictures from the Internet and to one charge of

possessing *Penthouse*, a magazine that is banned in Singapore. The newspaper said that Lai was fined \$561,500 (£28,200).

The pictures and the magazine were seized from Lai in July last year in a police raid on his home after a tip-off from Interpol. But it was not until July this year that the Government announced rules to block Singaporeans from seeing pornography and anti-government views on the Internet. By a September 15

deadline, the three local Internet providers installed software blanking out some of the known undesirable sites.

The Government has hired eight censors who regularly monitor the Net for pornographic and other politically sensitive sites that can be banned. Because laws to deal with computer pornography have not been framed, Lai was charged under the Films Act, which prohibits the possession of obscene visual images, *The Straits Times* said.

Rwanda war crimes trials under threat

Arusha: Rwanda's war crimes trials are due to open today against a background of chaos prompting defence lawyers to threaten to resign and prosecution complaints that scores of witnesses have been murdered (Sam Kiley writes).

Prosecutors are anxious to resist any attempt to delay the trials because 85, mainly Tutsi, witnesses have been killed in Rwanda this year.

But Johan Scheers, one of the defence lawyers, said he would resign if his motion to postpone the proceedings was not accepted. "I have not been able to contact a single one of the 30 to 40 witnesses my client has given me. They are mostly in refugee camps in Zaire, and after two trips there the authorities said I could not work. There were also problems with security," he said.

Armenian police fire on rally

Yerevan: Security forces opened fire yesterday on opposition protesters in the Armenian capital, wounding an unknown number of them.

Violence broke out after an estimated 40,000 people gathered outside the building housing the Central Election Commission. It was the third demonstration in as many days by people accusing President Levon Ter-Petrosian of winning re-election through fraud in Sunday's election. Demonstrators fought back, grabbing for the guns and clubs carried by police and soldiers. (AP)

'Heretic' wins marriage battle

Cairo: An Egyptian court at Giza suspended — in effect indefinitely — an order to dissolve a university professor's marriage for heresy against Islam, a judicial source said. The Cairo appeals court made the order in June 1995, saying Nasser Abu Zeid, now in The Netherlands, was a "heretic" because of his writings. That decision was upheld last month by the Supreme Court of Appeal. (AFP)

Japan heads off island protest

Tokyo: Japanese patrol boats have closed in on protesters from Hong Kong to prevent them landing on uninhabited islands to challenge Tokyo's sovereignty (Robert Whyman writes). Coastguards and police moved to head off a ship carrying 18 Hong Kong activists towards the islands, called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese.

Eastwood loses court battle

Clint Eastwood, the Hollywood actor-director, has agreed in court to pay Sandra Locke, his former lover, several million pounds. The money, agreed in Burbank, California, was compensation for a film production deal that she said was meant to humiliate her.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SAINT OR SINNER?

Labour's secret fears about Tony Blair are uncovered by Susan Crosland as she poses the question: Whose side is he on...?

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Yeltsin's doctors delay surgery to reduce death risk

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN will definitely undergo heart surgery, his doctors confirmed yesterday, ending weeks of speculation on the health of the Russian leader.

However, the heart bypass operation will be postponed by six to ten weeks because of the President's poor health. That confirms what has been obvious from recent television pictures of him, that Mr Yeltsin has a series of other health problems, probably in his liver and kidneys.

In what was the first full medical verdict on the President's condition since he disappeared from public view in June, four doctors who took part in yesterday's medical council sought to allay fears that his life was in danger. They admitted that Mr Yeltsin had had "several attacks of stenocardia", in effect mild heart attacks.

But Renat Akchurin, who will head the surgery team during the operation, said he was optimistic about its chances of success. "If we operate now, I would say the chance is about 80 per cent, but we hope that in six weeks the percentage would be close to 100," Dr Akchurin said.

Michael DeBakey, 88, the American heart surgeon called on to give a second opinion, said Mr Yeltsin would be able to resume a normal working life from six weeks to two months after the operation. "I am encouraged to tell you that the operation is needed and it should provide an excellent result," said Dr DeBakey. "In my experience of patients having this kind of problem, there is no reason

why the President should not be restored to full normal activity."

Dr DeBakey's presence is being used by the presidential staff to reassure Western governments that they are not the victims of a Kremlin cover-up. The American doctor said that he would return to Russia for the operation and was under President Clinton's personal orders to stand by.

According to his aides, Mr Yeltsin cannot contemplate the idea of ending out his presidency in sickness as Leonid Brezhnev did in his last years. It would be even more unthinkable for him, given his love of high office, to step down and renounce the presidency. That is clearly why he has decided to go ahead with surgery despite the risks and the long waiting period.

The President was present throughout the two-hour medical council at the Central Clinical Hospital, the old Politburo clinic. According to one report so was his daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, who has

quietly taken on the role of a Kremlin strategist since the election campaign. Dr DeBakey said that, although he was physically restricted, Mr Yeltsin was able to function mentally as normal. "There is no constriction mentally of any kind and he can function in that capacity as if he were in the Kremlin," Dr DeBakey said.

The positive forecasts of the medical team provided a welcome boost to Mr Yeltsin's Kremlin spin doctors. The President has faced calls in recent days to declare himself physically incapacitated and step down, which would lead to new elections within three months. Gennadi Seleznev, the Communist Speaker of the Russian parliament, the State Duma, retreated from that position last night and merely called for the medical report by the doctors to be published. But he added that he feared Russia was being run by a clique of Kremlin aides.

The news should also stem fears of a stock market crash. Russian financial markets lost 9 per cent of their value in the first two days of this week and important policy decisions, such as the 1997 budget, have been in virtual limbo pending a decision on the operation.

Russian newspapers have begun to monitor the start of a post-election succession struggle between Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Aleksandr Lebed, the national security chief.

Mr Chernomyrdin is the constitutional heir and will be decreed acting President while Mr Yeltsin is undergoing surgery.



Anti-fur demonstrators being arrested in Moscow yesterday after they stripped, wrapped themselves in sheets covered with slogans, and marched into Red Square chanting: "We'd rather go naked than wear fur." They were protesting against a fur exhibition in the Russian capital

'Starving' army on brink of mutiny, says Lebed

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S security chief, General Aleksandr Lebed, savaged the Government yesterday for its treatment of the armed forces, saying that the army was on the brink of mutiny.

In a typically blunt interview published in a Moscow newspaper, the former paratrooper general predicted that, unless the authorities acted quickly, the army could react as it did in 1916, when it rebelled against Tsar Nicholas II and set the stage for the Bolshevik Revolution a year later.

"An armed mutiny may take place this autumn," the National Security Adviser told the *Vecherniy Moskva* newspaper. He blamed Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, for

neglecting the military. "The Government has buried its head in the sand," he said, adding that it was deliberately undermining the armed forces and "drowning" General Igor Rodionov, the Defence Minister.

His attack may have reflected the mood in the armed forces accurately, but its timing was seen as part of the power play between General Lebed and Mr Chernomyrdin, regarded as the two leading candidates for the Kremlin leadership should President Yeltsin die or be forced to retire because of ill health.

The former Afghan war veteran said that he had drawn up a plan to resolve the military's dilemma, but that he had no powers to act because the decision lay with the ailing head of state and his Prime Minister. Whatever

his motives, General Lebed did draw attention to a potentially explosive problem that has been left unresolved since the break-up of the Soviet Union five years ago. "Officers are in hospital with malnutrition. There is a mass of suicides in the army. People are having to beg and steal," General Lebed said, highlighting just a few of the horror stories about daily life in the military.

The general did not specify what kind of mutiny he meant, although his comments suggested a spontaneous uprising in the ranks rather than an orchestrated military coup by senior officers. His warning came after a similar conclusion in an internal Ministry of Defence document written at the end of last month, which said that some units based in the Arctic

were facing starvation and that the loyalty of some soldiers could no longer be guaranteed.

The main cause of the problem is inadequate funding, General Lebed said, that the Ministry of Defence received 4 per cent of its required funding in July and none last month. Although President Yeltsin has committed himself to reforming the armed forces and reducing them from two million personnel to a professional force of 1.5 million by the turn of the century, little has been done.

Corruption, poor discipline and low morale are commonplace in the army, facts underscored by its abysmal performance during the Chechnya conflict, where soldiers were routinely drunk, scavenged for food and sold their weapons to the Chechen rebels.

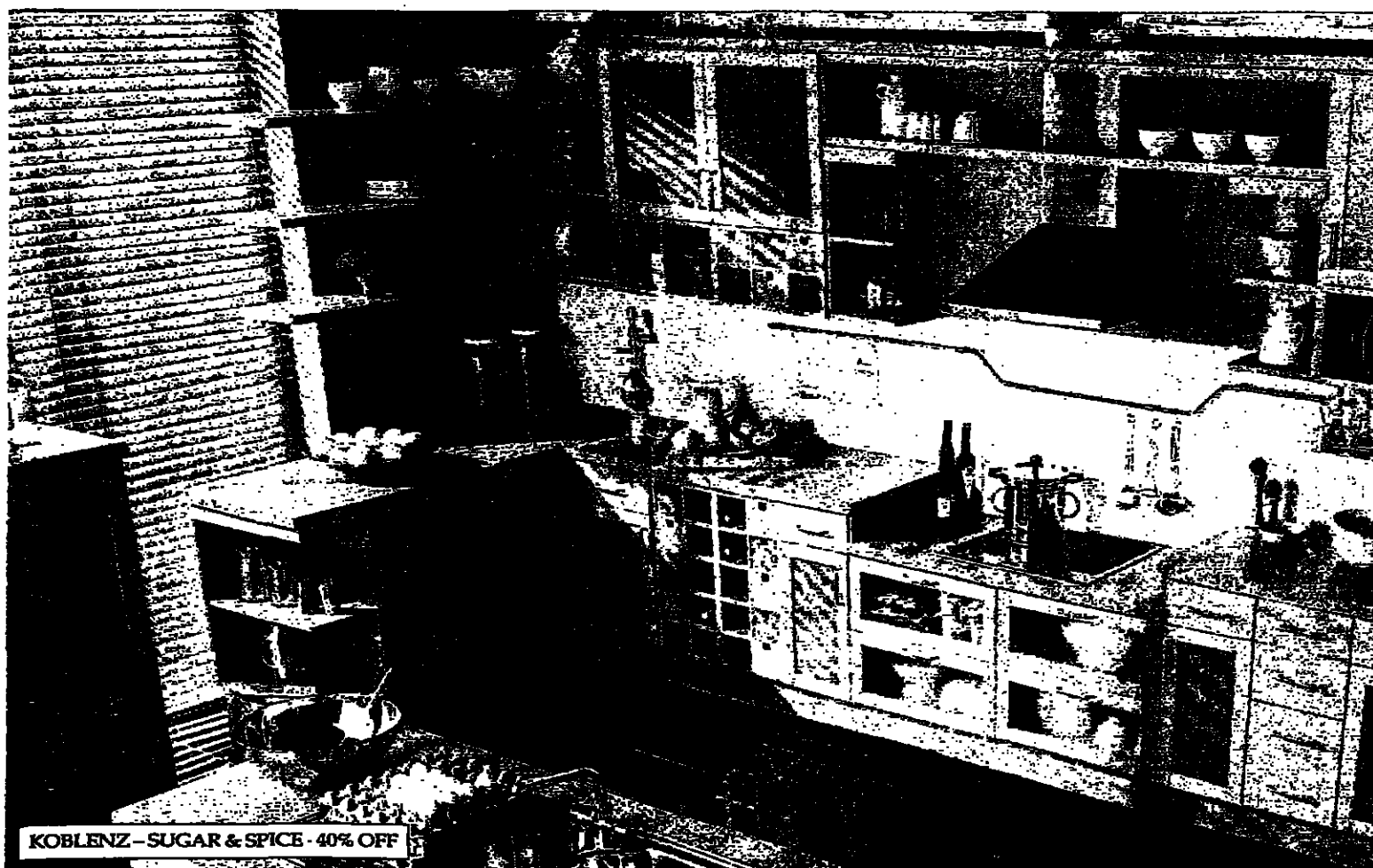
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Food for thought

Nato will scrap its base in Gibraltar

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

GIBMED, Nato's command in Gibraltar, will be scrapped to satisfy "fundamental" Spanish demands, according to Javier Solana, the alliance's Secretary-General. It is being phased out to pave the way for Spain's "fullest possible integration" with Nato, possibly by the year's end.

Spain, which joined in 1982, had refused to be part of Nato's integrated military command. But José María Aznar, the conservative Prime Minister, is intent on playing a Nato role "in keeping with Spanish military and political weight" and has made Gibmed's elimination an "unshakeable precondition".

The shutdown, which has always enjoyed the backing of Señor Solana, a former Spanish Foreign Minister, recently won the support of General Klaus Naumann, president of Nato's military committee.

Yet Spain has had to make two important concessions. Contrary to Madrid's demands, it appears unlikely there will be a new Spanish-led regional command covering the area from Naples to the Strait of Gibraltar.

In the second concession, which will be seen as a serious setback for Señor Aznar by those on his party's Right, Royal Navy vessels sailing to and from the Rock will no longer be barred from Spanish territorial waters.

Spanish jurists are concerned that this could constitute acquiescence in British sovereignty. The matter is expected to be raised in London talks on the Rock tomorrow.

In a separate development sure to raise doubts over Spain's Nato commitment, a Spanish Defence Ministry spokesman yesterday in the newspaper *El Mundo* said the country "would not permit the stationing of Nato nuclear weapons on Spanish soil", even after full integration.

□ Bergen: Charles Millon, the French Defence Minister, issued a warning to Nato governments yesterday that, unless the Americans give up heading a key command in the Mediterranean, Paris will drop any idea of reintegrating into the alliance's military structure (Michael Evans writes).

The alliance is in the process of reducing its four European commands to two, one in the north and one, headed by a US admiral, in the south. France wants a European commander to take over both.

EU allows Paris to give bank more aid

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday approved an emergency injection of Fr3.9 billion (£490 million) of French state aid to keep the Crédit Lyonnais bank afloat pending yet another rescue plan later this year.

Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, said the aid was being allowed on top of last year's Fr45 billion salvage package to keep the bank out of the red.

"This money is to maintain the status quo until the end of the year," he said.

Rival banks have complained that the huge bail-out of what was once the world's biggest bank outside Japan would give Crédit Lyonnais an unfair advantage. Yesterday's move was the second this month by the Commission which has fuelled suspicions that it is unduly favourable to France. Last week, the Com-

mission gave the nod to a controversial accounting exercise in which Paris switched assets from France Telecom in order to bring its planned 1997 budget deficit into line with the Maastricht criteria for monetary union.

The state-owned French bank, which came close to collapse as a result of reckless 1980s investments in such enterprises as MGM studios, was still nowhere near to being on its feet and would require further restructuring with new aid to survive. Mr Van Miert said.

EU rules allow state aid to rescue ailing companies, but not to give competitive edge. In July 1995 the Commission agreed to the bail-out on condition that the bank sell assets to calm competitors who claimed that it would be given special advantage in Europe.

Rail unions decide to join French strike

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S powerful railway unions yesterday joined calls for a general strike alongside civil service workers on October 17, setting the stage for a pitched battle over the Government's austerity plans. Rail workers were the driving force behind last winter's paralysing 24-day strike which forced Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, to abandon efforts to scale back pension rights and overhaul the debt-

ridden SNCF rail network. The Socialist CFDT union called for a 24-hour strike and the Communist-led CGT union scheduled a "day of action" to defend jobs, noting that staffing levels at SNCF, with 180,000 employees, will fall by nearly 5,000 this year. The seven largest public sector unions have called for a 24-hour strike on October 17 to demand wage rises and protest at planned job cuts.

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كذا من الأصل

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Dr Thomas Stuttford on the latest drug treatment for panic disorders, the embarrassing problem of headaches that strike at the moment of orgasm, an opportunity for surgeons to inspect the Pope and the disorder that is hardly ever correctly diagnosed

How to help a patient in a panic

One of my patients this week, a 45-year-old mother with two young children I shall call Mary Robinson, glanced at the newspaper account, open on my desk, of David Hamilton's panic attack and then told me her own story.

Mr Hamilton is the pilot who had a *crise de nerfs* while flying at 33,000ft over Paris. He insists that he wasn't suddenly frightened of heights, but that he wanted to land as soon as possible so that he could, as it were, take a quick stroll around the block. The troubles of my patient — a very competent professional woman who is spending a few years away from the office while her children grow up — are rather similar.

Mary, too, dislikes the enclosed sensation in an aircraft cabin, but the principal cause of acute anxiety in her case is travelling in the claustrophobic surroundings of the Underground. Incarceration in a closed space, which induces claustrophobia, is not the only circumstance to precipitate a panic attack in Mary. For she, like many other patients who are liable to these episodes, can have one suddenly, totally unexpectedly and for no apparent reason.

When Mary has an attack she complains that she suffers breathlessness, chest pains and palpitation; the palpita-

tions are caused by true tachycardia (rapid heart beat). In her case, the heart rate has increased to more than 200 beats a minute.

Not surprisingly, Mary has always feared that she must have something wrong with her cardiovascular system, and she worries about what would happen to her two children if she were to die from

are suffocating. Hence their panting respirations, which in turn lead to chest pain, tingling and sometimes even spasm, in the hands and feet. Little wonder that Mr Hamilton experienced air hunger, had palpitations and felt that he needed a quick walk and a breath of fresh air — difficult demands to meet at 33,000ft.

Although panic attacks are more common when patients are stressed, tired or worried, panic disorder should not be diagnosed unless the attacks also occur in the absence of any precipitating feature.

Claustrophobia is not the only phobia which can bring on the symptoms of a panic attack. Other people will have the same sensation if, for instance, they are confronted by a spider (arachnophobia), or suffer from agoraphobia — an anxiety about being in strange surroundings, and on unfamiliar ground, which uncovers a fear that help is not immediately available. The literal translation of agoraphobia is a fear of open spaces. Social phobias, extreme anxiety about meeting people whether as a member of an audience, or as the speaker, can also induce attacks.

It is relevant that Mr Hamilton had recently been bereaved; his mother died a couple of months before the incident and that he had other worries too as his daughter had epilepsy.



Don't panic — arachnophobia brought on by insects like this tarantula can be treated by new drugs

Both stress and bereavement often precede the development of panic disorder. Women suffer from the disorder more often than men and in both sexes it attacks the young more often than the middle-aged and elderly; the most common age group is 25-45. Sixty per cent of patients with panic disorder also have symptoms of a depressive illness.

Therapy for panic disorder has been revolutionised by the introduction of the 5HT reuptake inhibitor drugs, which have replaced tranquilisers as the favoured treatment. The 5HT reuptake inhibitor specifically licensed for the treatment of panic disorder and agoraphobia is Seraxat paroxetine. Paroxetine has a calming but not sedative action and a good side-effect profile.

Whatever drug is prescribed, cognitive and behavioural therapy are also needed, for the best results are obtained when psychotherapy is combined with the drug treatment.

THE world's experts in progressive supra-nuclear palsy gather tomorrow to discuss the latest research. Progressive supra-nuclear palsy (PSP) affects 10,000 people in Britain but few have heard of it. Specialists estimate that nine out of ten cases are never correctly diagnosed.

FOCUS ON THE 'UNKNOWN' DISEASE

There is no effective treatment for PSP, although its symptoms can be helped. PSP is progressive and the average patient lives for seven years after its diagnosis. The disease, which starts

in late middle-age, is the result of degeneration of the nerve cells and the brain stem and the basal ganglia. Characteristically, the patient's troubles begin with problems with his or her eyes

Sex is a headache

A CONSULTANT physician, Dr Paul Woolley, at the University Hospital of South Manchester has written in the *British Journal of Sexual Medicine* about an unexpectedly common problem, orgasmic headaches.

Also known as benign sex headaches, or orgasmic cephalgia, they coincide with sexual intercourse but do not happen at other times. It starts as a dull ache at the back of the head and neck, but as excitement increases the headache becomes more generalised and can become excruciating. The report in the journal describes the pain as being "explosive", the same term which has been used by my patients when talking about the nature of the pain.

Although orgasmic headaches may be worse when the patient is tense and stressed, they often start without warning after years of pain-free sex. Men are affected more than women and Dr Woolley suggests the headaches occur when sex takes place several times over a short period. The doctor will check the patient's blood pressure as part of a general examination and may also order a scan to exclude any intra-cranial lesion. Treatment involves teaching muscle relaxation, as excessive tension in the head and neck muscles may precipitate an attack.

Women and the young are most likely to be affected

a heart attack. This fear makes her symptoms worse.

Although my patient was momentarily reassured by normal electrocardiograms, her attacks returned and with them her anxiety. As a precaution, patients with panic disorder should have an echocardiogram, which allows the doctor to watch the heart working.

Patients with panic attacks also complain that they have a feeling that they cannot breathe in air fast enough to keep them alive and that they

Surgery with a gentle touch

The Pope is soon to have an operation to remove his appendix. The operation will give the surgeon a good opportunity to have a look around the papal peritoneal cavity in order to confirm their diagnosis and at the same time the chance to divide any adhesions that might have formed after his attempted assassination and the subsequent abdominal surgery.

Adhesions, a complication of the natural healing process, form when scar tissue grows between organs that ought naturally to be separated. They give rise to ever-tightening bands across the hollow intestines, a process which in time can result in obstruction. Adhesions form in most patients after abdominal surgery.

A study at Westminster Hospital in 1990 showed that adhesions can later be demonstrated in 93 per cent of those who have had pelvic and abdominal surgery, although, fortunately, in most cases they do not cause symptoms. The number of patients who have trouble from adhesions after an operation has been estimated at 5 per cent. Jeremy Thompson, a consultant surgeon at the Ealing and Hammersmith Hospital, suggests that adhesions are now, in developed countries, the commonest cause of obstruction of the small intestine, and are

second only to pelvic infection as a cause of infertility in women.

Any damage to intra-abdominal organs by rough handling favours the formation of adhesions. This is particularly important in women because of the danger of later infertility. Surgeons are now highly conscious of the need to handle organs and other tissues very gently. The kind of macho surgery so well portrayed by James Robertson Justice in the *Doctor in the House* films, in which the surgeon rummaged around the abdominal cavity as he roughly hauled the organs out for general examination, is now very unfashionable. Improved and gentler techniques have reduced the incidences of post-operative adhesions, but research is continuing to find other means of avoiding this complication.

Research workers have been looking to the comb of the farmyard cock to solve the problems of adhesions. The rooster's comb contains a chemical, hyaluronic acid, which can form a natural barrier



John Paul II: operation

between tissues. But the disadvantage was that it did not stay in place long enough to keep the organs separate.

Artificially synthesised hyaluronic acid can be so modified that it forms sufficient barriers, which remain in position long enough to keep the organs apart while healing takes place. Research workers at Genzyme, the pharmaceutical company, produce synthesised hyaluronic acid as a translucent film, which is applied to adjacent tissues that might have suffered damage during surgery. These films absorb fluid and become a gel that stays in place until a week after surgery, the time when most adhesions are formed, but disappear without trace within a month.

Marketed as Sepra film, the synthesised hyaluronic acid has already been licensed for use by the American FDA and in most European countries for protection against adhesions during abdominal and pelvic surgery. And this month, it has been approved for use in Britain.



A Pair of Kwai Aces

When Phil and Jane heard a rumour that their neighbour thought a new couple had moved into their house they laughed. "We've been living here for six years - and she hadn't realised that Phil and I had been getting back into shape!"

It was Phil's fortieth birthday that made up their minds. "After the party we both realised how much quicker we recovered from these things ten years ago," recalls Jane, "so we made a big effort to start exercising and eat healthier food - I even stopped smoking."

"We tried to introduce more vegetables and fruit into our diet. I'd read how important antioxidants are, and how fresh vegetables are a good source."

We also tried new Kwai ACE. It's an odour free garlic tablet, with antioxidant vitamins A, C and E."

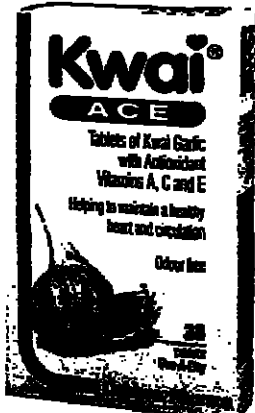
"Of course, taking Kwai ACE isn't all we do," says Phil. "We watch what we're drinking and regular exercise has become part of our lives. We look and feel years younger."

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مكتبة من الأصول

'We are lucky to have Prince Charles'

Frankly, I wasn't looking forward to interviewing Sir Laurens van der Post. Invariably described as guru by appointment to the Prince of Wales, would he not be rather intimidating or utterly boring? Surely I would face an endless, enigmatic discourse of the whimsical look-deep-into-the-deepths-of-the-moon variety? Would he betray an overweening sense of self-importance? Given his great age — he is 90 — I realised, out of respect, I would be bound to listen without interruption. On the doorstep, I imagined him painstakingly reiterating all the events and characters in his 25th and latest book, *The Admiral's Baby*.



The world is in peril, but people such as the Prince of Wales are trying to save it, says Sir Laurens van der Post. Interview by Noreen Taylor

collapsed under the strain. He later married the writer Ingeborg Gifford, now 94, and with whom he has lived for the past 27 years in a penthouse off the King's Road. From his desk, he looks out over the chimneys and steeples of London, directing my eye to the Thames. "Isn't it wonderful! My wife and I, we break-

Our civilisation is, according to Sir Laurens, in mortal danger. He prophesies that this particular world cycle is coming to an end through materialism, lust for big business, and the manipulation of natural resources.

"We have greater power than at any time in our history to control nature, and it has

"I merely tell them that questioning is the first step to enlightenment and understanding. That's how wisdom arrives. Discussion, criticism, exchange of ideas, dissatisfaction with life as it is lived now, a sense of alarm at the way we are manipulating nature for our own excess, these are all very healthy signs. We know our excesses are wrong, yet we can't stop ourselves because it's so enjoyable."

Looking out of his windows, at the commuting traffic snaking along the streets below, he asks: "Is that any sort of life?" By that I take it he means the one most modern urbanites are forced to live: driving to and from an office, days spent sitting in front of a screen, too exhausted by the weekend to do much more than watch another screen?

"Exactly," he replies, explaining that it's the people who lead those lives who ask him why they get into this trap in the first place. "Millions of people are leading lives they don't want," he says. "But the people I meet, the people who sit here and talk to me, belong to a society yet to come. They don't

know it, but they are the people of the future. Already they are helping to bring about reappraisal, to challenge what has become doomed patterns of destruction within our cities as well as our countryside. They are rebelling against size, against the dreadful blandness threatening Europe, the continent of diversity, the cradle of all those great individual talents."

Who are these people? Might the Prince of Wales be one? "Absolutely," came Sir Laurens's firm response. "He is a man of vision, of many interests and gifts, and would certainly play some vital part."

Like an anguished grandfatherly figure defending a younger, more vulnerable family member under attack, he asks: "Why is it, do you think, the press constantly criticises him? Why do they ignore the good he does?"

"Do they not realise that he has helped to create more than 25,000 small businesses, that he is one of the few voices railing against the destruction of our cities with these ghastly hotel blocks, that he cares desperately about education, about generations to come, and of what is happening to the current one?"

"Yet all they do is mock him, make snide remarks about him smelling flowers. Can they not see what this is doing to him, this constant tirade? The man is only trying to do his best. The man they criticise so glibly is someone we're lucky to have. So full of knowledge, humility, all sorts of interests, in whatever is going on in the world. Oh, we have had some wonderful talks. Hopefully one day, he will come to be appreciated by those who attack him."

● *The Admiral's Baby* is published by John Murray on October 10, £9.99.



Sir Laurens in his penthouse: "Moving up means moving closer to nature"

had missed his afternoon nap. It was too late now because Sir James Goldsmith was due.

There had, after all, been no sermons, just the kind of talk that would have struck chords with many of the thoughtful young parading along the King's Road below.

As for *The Admiral's Baby*, he laughed, waving a dismissive arm. "Oh darling," he said, "you didn't have to trawl through all of that, you know." Except that it wasn't a trawl. The book is a remarkable and poignant testimony about the period following his release from a Japanese POW camp. It also embraces one of his most firmly held beliefs: how to forgive the unforgivable.

He tells how, after 3½ years of brutal captivity, he found himself in the extraordinary position of guiding his captors, at their request, towards holding the peace in Java.

He recalls: "I stank of war for so long that, like many men, I found it difficult to return to normal domestic life." In fact, his first marriage

fast here watching dawn breaking, along with the 30 different species of birds.

"Moving up in London means moving closer to nature. People are always saying to me: 'Oh, you're always going on about Africa and the great wildernesses of the world, yet you live in the middle of Chelsea.' I tell them that if I lived in Africa I wouldn't be able to write. There's too much going on there. My wife tells people: 'Oh, my husband hasn't left Africa, he just lives in London.'"

Laurens van der Post was born in South Africa in 1906, the 13th of 15 children in a pioneering family of Dutch and French origins. Writer, journalist, fighter against apartheid, explorer, soldier, farmer, conservationist, his name first came to prominence through his books and documentaries about the Kalahari Bushmen. But there are more pressing problems.

corrupted us. I know because I think of little else. We are now living in a time of great transformations. Present society is at the end of its cycle, just as Babylon and Ancient Egypt have vanished, so will we. Like those societies, we have failed to regenerate. Instead, we continually repeat our mistakes, choosing not to learn from them.

"We are a wasteful, confused people. A people in peril. What we are doing to nature, to the Great Mother Earth, is frightening. We can't go on like this if mankind is to survive. The breeding around the world, we cannot go on filling the Earth in such uncontrolled numbers. At the same time, humankind finds

itself increasingly segregated, corrupted on to a narrow road leading it away, far away from what I would call, a natural kind of life. We're trapped. And being trapped turns some among us to commit the most evil acts. Yes, you can cite child murderers, paedophilia. Such acts come

from the violence within, from using our lives in the wrong way. For the first time we're living in an age without an institution to guide us. Everything is up for reappraisal: religion, the Church, Parliament.

"Why are we here? What are we to do? Why am I so sad, so anxious all the time, I hear people say? I'm continually asked such questions. When you've been lucky enough to sell millions of books as I have done, your constituency tends to be a rather large one. People tell me they are frightened."

So what crumbs of comfort can the wise old seer offer to those seekers of such imponderables? Those who come to still the clamour in their heads.

'He is a man of vision, of many interests and gifts'

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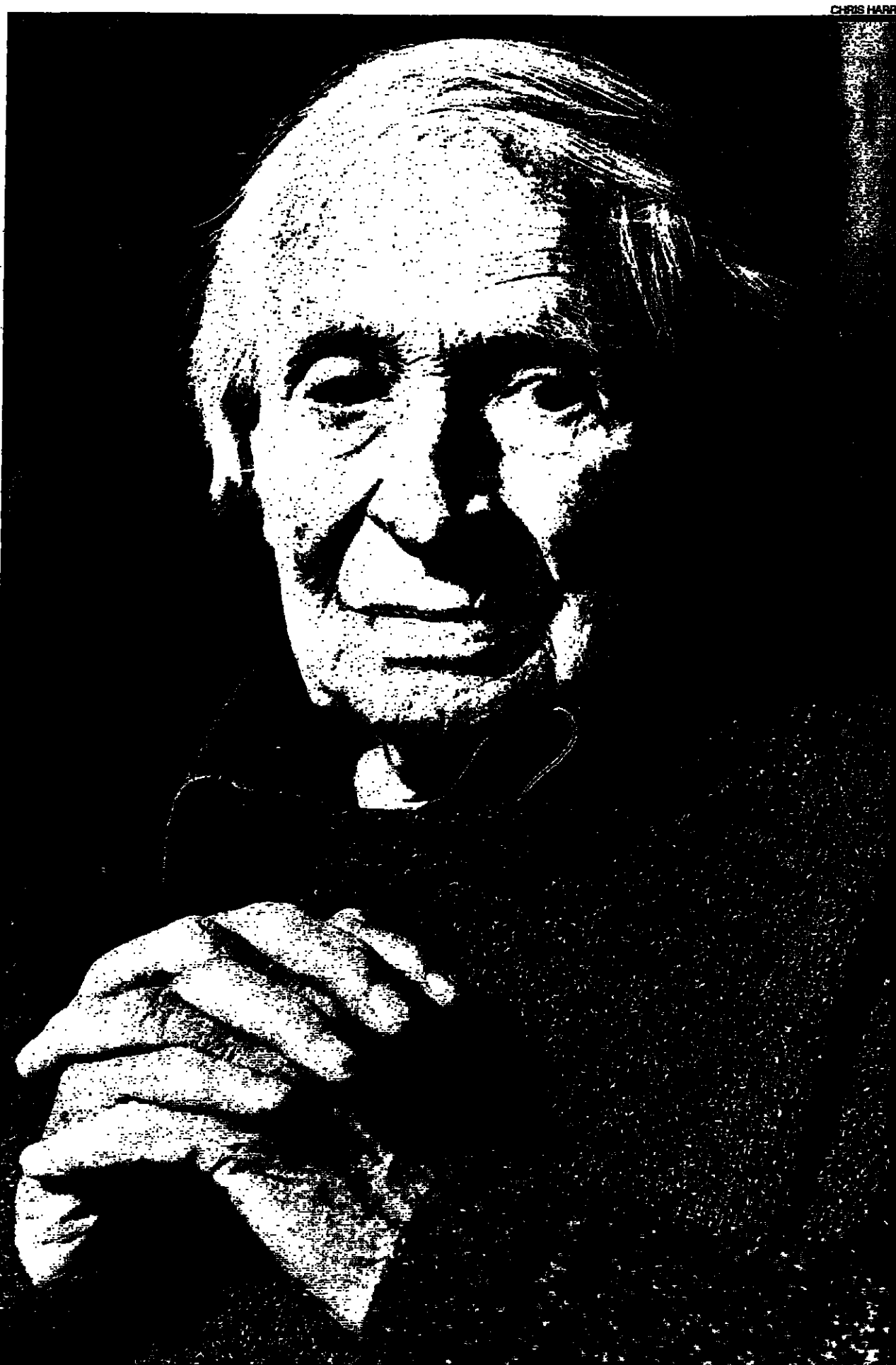
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Nothing learnt, nor forgotten

For Ellis O'Hanlon, Gerry Adams is no Irish Mandela

For Gerry Adams, the Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn is what Lenin wickiedly called a "useful idiot". Even the discovery of an imminent IRA bombing campaign this week was not enough to deter the Member for Islington North from providing a platform in the Palace of Westminster for Sinn Féin's president to promote his autobiography. The threat of losing the Labour whip may not have the desired effect either.

But the Labour leadership's determination to ditch the nationalist fantasising which has plagued the party throughout the Troubles, and to pursue instead a policy of mundane realism in Northern Ireland, has been perhaps the least expected and hence the most pleasing of Tony Blair's reforms. For the first time in Labour's history, the Corbys have been firmly banished to the lunatic fringe.

None of this makes much difference to the Provisional IRA, itself, of course, as a reading of Gerry Adams's *Before the Dawn* makes plain. The IRA operates in a fantasy world every bit as strange as Corbyn's own and has always taken an obscene delight in demonstrating anew its sanguinary ingenuity. Reports of our demise, each murder proclamation, have been greatly exaggerated; and nowhere was this cry more loudly echoed, as the Sinn Féin leader himself recalls, than at Warrenpoint, where 18 British soldiers died at the hands of an IRA bomb.

Adams conspicuously leaves unremarked the explosion on the same day, at Mullaghbeg in Co Sligo, which killed Lord Mountbatten of Burma. Not even to mention Mountbatten in this context, as if his death were so insignificant that republicans barely remembered it, looks like a calculated exercise in insensitivity. Likewise his determination to launch the publicity campaign for his book from the House of Commons — the symbol of British democracy, and a place which was itself desecrated by the assassination of Airey Neave in 1979.

Republicanism's indifference to all rights and traditions and identities and sufferings but its own is apparent throughout this sentimental, self-aggrandising, one-sided account of the Troubles. The Northern Ireland he evokes is a place in which innocent Roman Catholics, guarded only by the IRA, risk near-daily death and torture at the hands of bloodthirsty loyalists but in which nothing is ever the fault of Irish republicans. One would not guess from this account of the early 1970s, for example, that it was the IRA which was responsible for the great majority of murders, or that it has killed three times more Catholics than the British Army and the RUC combined.

The same dishonesty characterises his consideration of the effects of violence. At the funeral of a young republican shot dead by the British Army, Mr Adams confesses himself

"unable to grasp the logic, the divine wisdom, which tightened a British soldier's trigger finger and produced yet another corpse". Yet not once does he turn this bafflement on his own comrades. Adams's analysis of the moral justification for politically inspired violence, the central question for nationalists in Northern Ireland, follows the same sterile, puerile, partisan course. "Was it right to kill?" Adams asks through the persona of an imaginary IRA volunteer: but, having asked it, the question is peremptorily dismissed. "It might or might not be right to kill, but sometimes it was necessary," the "volunteer" concludes blandly. "They [the British] should not be here. It was his country, not theirs. They didn't belong. They gave him no choice except to fight."

Maybe too long a sacrifice has made a stone of Gerry Adams's heart, but it is hard to credit from this icy sectarian myopia that this is the same man who has been lionised as a statesman, a peacemaker, an Irish Mandela, a man who has not only put violence behind him but now recognises its futility.

There is no sense of such an active inner life within the author of this work, no sense of doubt or mental struggle or reflection prompted by the passing years or the dreadful anguish those years have wrought on these islands. He appears to think now much as he thought in 1969, and the only refinement which time has wrought is in the language through which the fundamental unchanging intolerance of his creed is expressed. He urges us to lay the past aside but repeatedly dwells on his own grievances, picking irritably at the scabs of nationalist disaffection.

More frighteningly still, nowhere does he evince even a glancing awareness of Unionist thinking. His mind ticks over in a moral, political and cultural vacuum and the culture and aspirations, indeed the very existence of Ulster's majority population, remain an inconsequential, irrelevant mystery to him. From the darkest moments of the IRA campaign to the present day, he has not once ceased to regard Unionists as mere hapless tools of a British Establishment, unworthy of consideration in their own right.

There are only two possibilities. Either Mr Adams is still not his own man, still constrained by circumstance, and still sees the act of writing his autobiography only as an extension of a lifetime's propagandising — or else *Before the Dawn* is an accurate summation of his political thought. But if this exercise in specious self-justification really is all that Gerry Adams has to say about the past decades of atavistic slaughter, then God help us all.

Ellis O'Hanlon is a columnist for the Irish Sunday Independent. She lives in Belfast.

NEW LABOUR



NEW WANGER

Major is losing the drift

The Cabinet must choose between democratic and bureaucratic cultures

The Cabinet is completely split on the single currency issue. That is obvious, and has been for some time. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has made it only too clear that he is in favour of joining at the earliest possible date. The Foreign Secretary is against that, as his most recent speech showed, as are the Euro-sceptics in the Cabinet and the majority of Conservative Members of Parliament. The Prime Minister is determined to avoid a decision, at least for the time being. John Major said on Tuesday: "I spoke to the Chancellor by phone today in Bermuda and I am quite clear and he is quite clear that what he said has been misrepresented." It all sounds like dialogue from a French farce. "I spoke to the Chancellor by phone today in Bermuda and I am quite clear and he is quite clear that he was never in Mademoiselle Fifi's apartment."

They will not come clean about the Government's intentions, and so long as they do not come clean, the Labour Party does not have to either. Is this damaging to the Government? Of course it is. The decision whether or not to join the European single currency is not a simple question of financial mechanics but an historic question about the constitutional future of Britain. A Prime Minister who enters his name among the "don't knows" cannot expect to win back the confidence of the electorate. Nor does he deserve to do so.

The European federalists, like Kenneth Clarke himself, at least say what they think, even if they will not admit to having said it. None of those who listened to Kenneth Clarke's replies on *The World at One* at all misunderstood his point of view. That is a subsequent fabrication, made up days later to try to hold the cabinet together. Yet Kenneth Clarke's argument, if more frank, is still utterly inadequate. There are central issues which Kenneth Clarke dismisses as irrelevant, and has never faced in the debate. The most important is democracy itself. The single currency would transfer power over exchange rates and interest rates from Parliament, where it now resides, to the European Central Bank, which is made up of unelected and unremovable officials.

I can never understand how leading British parliamentarians could possibly accept this transfer. It is,

after all, their power and that of the electorate which would be given away. The Labour Party is so concerned about the purity of British democracy that it proposes to take away the small residual rights of hereditary peers.

At the same time, Labour contemplates with equanimity transferring the money power away from the House of Commons and handing it over to European bureaucrats. That indeed is straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel.

Kenneth Clarke does not say that he has become disenchanted with democracy and has decided that unelected bureaucrats would do a better job. He does not say that there is no longer any point in all those old-fashioned slogans of "one man, one vote", or "no taxation without representation". He simply says that all this does not matter, that the transfer of exchange-rate, interest-rate and budget policies from Parliament to the European bureaucrats makes no significant political difference. Such an argument is indeed "pathetic", the word Kenneth Clarke uses to describe his critics.

If he is cavalier about democracy, he is equally cavalier about unemployment. Britain now has the lowest level of unemployment of the large European countries. In Germany one worker in ten is unemployed; in France and Italy it is one in eight; in Spain it is one in four. All these countries have been debating the economics, despite the socially dangerous levels of unemployment, in order to prepare for the single currency. Does Kenneth Clarke, as Chancellor, want to see British jobs destroyed in the same way? If we do join the single currency, it will be run to suit the economic conditions of other countries, which will not be the same as ours.

In 1925, Winston Churchill, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, took Britain back on to the Gold Standard, a decision which was rightly criticised at the time by John Maynard Keynes. We went back at the prewar

collapse of exchange, which was too high for the conditions of 1925. As a result, unemployment rose in the late 1920s; attempts to reduce wages led to the General Strike of 1926. In 1931 Britain was forced to abandon the Gold Standard and that started the recovery, which accelerated in the mid-1930s and eventually brought unemployment back down to more tolerable levels.

In 1990, John Major as Chancellor of the Exchequer took Britain into the European exchange-rate mechanism. He too was criticised, on the compelling grounds that the pound was fixed at the wrong rate and at the wrong time. Britain then suffered particularly severely from the recession of the early 1990s, with rising unemployment, many bankruptcies and the

collapse of the housing market. These events ruined lives and destroyed public confidence in the Government, which has not recovered to this day. In 1992 Britain was forced to leave the ERM. The pound fell, interest rates were reduced, the predicted inflation did not occur and recovery began. British unemployment has fallen below the average European level because the pound is an internationally competitive currency. With the example of 1931 and 1992, why should we make the same mistake for a third time? These arguments have to be met by the Labour Party just as much as by the Conservatives. If the single currency is destructive of democracy and raises unemployment, the Labour policy which is in favour of joining it, is even worse than the complete indecision of the Tories. But the Conservative Party is in government. No doubt there are divisions in the Shadow Cabinet as well, but it is the Cabinet which has the immediate responsibility for governing the country. Any Prime Minister who allows his Foreign Secretary and his Chancellor to make opposite speeches in the same week on a subject of this importance shows that he has lost control of his Government. It may not matter what a junior minister says, but the Foreign

Secretary and the Chancellor are the two pillars on which John Major's Government rests, and the pillars have now gone walkabout.

Behind all these arguments there is the difference of political culture between Britain and continental Europe. The Anglo-Saxon tradition is democratic and not bureaucratic. As Baroness Thatcher observed in her James Bryce Lecture on Tuesday evening, the American Declaration of Independence embodies older British ideas of freedom under law, ideas which the Americans themselves derived from English philosophers such as John Locke. These ideas have influenced continental democracy, and were regarded as subversive in 18th-century France, but have not replaced the claims of administrative right, or the power of the bureaucratic class. The European bureaucratic tradition can be seen in the way the Roman Empire itself was run, and in the administration of the Roman Catholic Church. It can be seen in the France of Colbert or of Napoleon, in the Germany of Bismarck and the Prussian monarchy, and in the administrative structure, which has largely survived, of Fascist Italy and Spain. European democracy has, as it were, been tacked on as a façade to a bureaucratic building; certainly in the European Union bureaucracy is the dominant power. In 1891 a German professor observed enthusiastically: "The German State is a State of the supremacy of officialdom. Let us hope it will remain so." The "State of supremacy of officialdom" has been reborn in Brussels, and by and large that has been acceptable in Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

It is not acceptable in Britain. I doubt whether we would have chosen to join even a fully democratic European federation, with sovereign European Parliament, an elected European President, or whatever constitution might have been chosen. But we would at least have understood such a structure. What our European partners ought to recognise is that this gap in political culture is decisive. A non-democratic Europe run by the official class is never going to be acceptable to the British. To us it seems strange that the other European nations should be so content to live within it, but if they wish to do so we can hardly stop them. The official State does not fit the British political tradition. Yet the single currency is dependent on creating the official State.

Modernist homage to St Paul's

Giles Worsley on Paternoster, the Prince's square

No cause has been more closely identified with the Prince of Wales's intervention in architecture than Paternoster Square, to the north of St Paul's Cathedral. Touching a chord of popular dissent, his speech at the Mansion House in 1987 effectively brought a halt to plans for a Modernist redevelopment and led directly to the Classical scheme by the architects John Simpson and Terry Farrell, which replaced it.

Now this proposal, which has planning permission, has just been abandoned by the owners of the site, Mitsubishi. Instead a new scheme, masterminded by Sir William Whitfield, will be submitted to the planners. Of the four architects recently chosen to give flesh to Whitfield's masterplan, Sir Michael Hopkins and Richard Marmorino were involved in the earlier abortive Modernist scheme by Arup Associates, while Allies and Morrison is also a Modernist practice. Only John Simpson survives of the old team of architects from the Classical scheme. Has all that the Prince fought for been abandoned? Is Simpson's commission a mere sop to royal concern? That is certainly how it is being presented by the Prince of Wales's architectural critics. Obsessed with the question of style, many of these are unable to see beyond the Classical language of the Simpson and Farrell scheme and realise that the real issue is not a battle of columns against glass and steel, but of planning and respect for the setting of St Paul's. The columns and pilasters may have gone, but the principles for which the Prince argued would appear to have survived in Whitfield's masterplan. Indeed, in many ways his ideals are better represented now than they were in the scheme that received planning permission.

By the time it was finally approved, Simpson's original plan had been severely compromised. Simpson had suggested redeveloping the area along lines which respected the grain and character of the prewar street pattern. Simpson's recreation of the traditional London streetscape was in strong contrast to the Arup scheme, which would have seen the effective privatisation of the public domain, as in the Broadgate development by Liverpool Street station.

But the American developers who dominated the complicated ownership of the site demanded changes. An underground shopping mall arrived, and what had been planned as a series of individual buildings ended up as a single megastructure which spoke the exuberant language of American commercial Classical architects. In place of Simpson's original, essentially Georgian, austerity came a rich vocabulary of columns and pilasters, reminiscent of 1900s New York. Although many of the original urban ideals remained, Paternoster Square was perilously close to being a standard commercial development in Classical dress.

I would appear that Whitfield's redesign has stripped out the less palatable elements so recently deemed essential by commercial experts. The open square with traditional streets has survived, but the underground shopping has gone and so has the massive substructure. Once again, each of the different buildings is distinct. This also means that in due course the site can be redeveloped piecemeal and so reintegrated into the City, something which could not have happened with the earlier scheme.

Not all the changes are positive. The absence of Demetri Porphyrios from the list of architects is a pity, as he was the only one of the earlier architects who seemed to be transcending the corporate Classicism of his neighbours to suggest a new way forward for designing large urban buildings. There are also some who consider that the relationship between St Paul's and the south end of the square is not yet satisfactorily resolved. But the spirit of the Prince of Wales's proposal remains intact.

Much will depend on whether Whitfield is able to insist on a common code of building ethics — of language and materials — across the site which would be respectful to St Paul's. Looking at Allies and Morrison's recent restored Dublin Embassy or Hopkins's Glyndebourne, I can see no reason why they should not. These architects represent the respectable face of English Modernism, prepared to learn from the past as well as the present, and with a growing interest in traditional materials and structural techniques. They have little in common with the overpromising stance of, say, Richard Rogers in the Lloyd's Building.

Empty and forlorn, Paternoster Square today is a national humiliation. The sooner it is demolished and replaced the better. But in its haste, the Corporation must not allow itself to compromise on quality. As the character of the City changes with the relaxation of planning controls, particularly in conservation areas, and with the threat of massive towers rising before us, the least we can expect is that certain areas of the City retain their distinction. Paternoster Square must be one of them.

The author is Editor of Perspectives on Architecture.

G'bye Paula

TIME to dig out the bunting and pop the champagne: Paula Yates, rock siren, mother and breast enlarger, plans to leave London for Australia. Miss Yates is at present in Sydney visiting the parents of the pop star Michael Hutchence, the small, hairy father of Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, her youngest daughter.

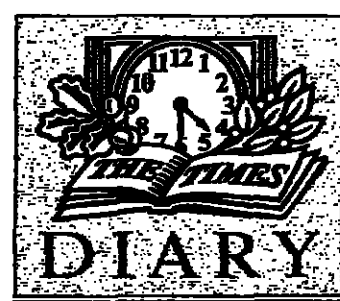
Interviewed in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Yates says: "I love Australia. There is no comparison with Britain. Australia is special to me — my new daughter

is Australian. I think we will definitely move here." She follows up her bombshell with the caveat that "we would have to arrange it with Bob so he could see his children as much as possible". Bob, of course, is Bob Geldof, sire to Yates's other three daughters.

Despite what seemed to outsiders a rather rancorous split from Geldof, Yates is determinedly upbeat about her novel family setup. "Things are so nice at home," she says, "it's like the bloody Waltons." By moving to the other side of the world, Yates hopes she can find some peace away from the hyenas of the British press. "In London they chase my children down the street until they fall over. Then they take pictures of them crying and run them with a headline saying 'Paula's children cry over her divorce'." The Australian media have been really nice. "Long may it continue."

In absentia

DOING her bit for London Fashion Week, Norma Major was judging a children's fancy-dress competition last night on behalf of



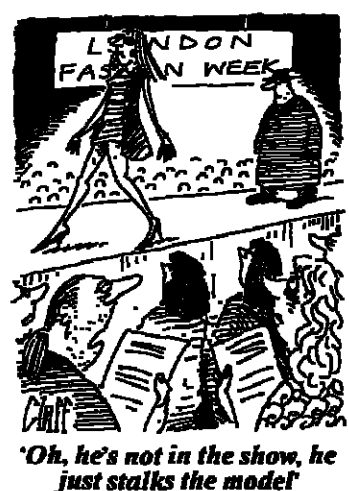
the Renton Foundation, a charity for the mentally handicapped of which she is patron. The catwalk parade of local schoolchildren was attended by some upstanding folk, not least Sir Tim Bell in the front row. But Sir Tim's great friend Baroness Thatcher was absent, even though the annual event took place yards from her home in Chester Square. "She never comes," said an organiser. "The Thatchers do not participate in the neighbourhood at all."

● Sir Peregrine Worsthorne's wife Lucinda Lambton has weighed into the debate on the censorship of explicit photos at the Robert Mapplethorpe exhibition in London. In this morning's *New Statesman*, she says she finds one of the banned pictures — of a three-year-old girl called Rosie — perfectly innocent. Lucinda knew Mapple-

thorpe and is not unacquainted with the young girl — for she is Rosie's aunt.

Nick knack

AMID Paddy Ashdown's macho posturing at the Liberal Democrat conference in Brighton there was one tender moment. Nick Clarke, the presenter of the BBC's *World at One* received a smacker on the lips from a male admirer yesterday. After interviewing Ashdown in the conference hall, Paddy's sup-



porters heckled Clarke for giving their leader a hard time.

Then, a middle-aged gentleman came to his aid; he pushed through the throng and, in the heat of the moment, kissed him squarely on the lips. "That's from my wife, she's a great admirer," he gushed, leaving Clarke speechless.

Rusty steed

THE IRON Duke is looking a little unsteady on his feet. The statue of the Duke of Wellington astride his steed at Hyde Park Corner is to undergo exploratory surgery. J.E. Boehm's famous 1888 bronze figure of the duke mounted on his horse Copenhagen overlooks Appleby House, still the dual home in London. "There's some cracking at the base," says a National Heritage spokesman of Boehm's statue. "We need to investigate."

Home run

THE QUEEN's nephew, Viscount Linley, has found a new home in Belgrave, haunt of wealthy aristocrats and Baroness Thatcher. I understand he is behind the transformation of two mews houses into a substantial family house at a cost of more than £1 million. Locals believe that Linley is



Linley and Serena: nesting

building his marital home, despite the fact that he bought a large £400,000 flat last year in the top floor of a former secondary school in Battersea. Others suggest that he could be expanding his furniture empire or even moving into property development. Linley has been showing interest in Belgrave property for some time. He was keen on the old police station which was sold instead for £2 million to Count Leopold Bismarck, great-grandson of Germany's Iron Chancellor, who plans to knock it down and build anew.

Frantic excavation is now underway at the mews house. "They're going to hit the Underground if they carry on like this," says a neighbour.

P.H.S



NOTHING STRAIGHT

Little about EMU is simple, least of all its prevention

Even assuming that Cabinet discipline is restored, John Major's policy on EMU will be difficult to sustain up to the general election. Strategic ambiguity is a hard concept to defend: it is readily pilloried as weakness. There will be no relaxation of the pressures on the Prime Minister to head for the escape hatch and rule out British entry into EMU during the next Parliament.

Those arguing this course have a decent case. At some point — probably by the end of next year — the option will anyway have to be closed. An early declaration would steal an electoral march on Labour. It can be argued that Britain's best hope of derailing the project lies in giving clear advance notice of Britain's determination to stay clear: since EMU will be a disaster for Britain, whether or not it joins, why not say "no" now?

The best argument on the other side is that strategic ambiguity will help Britain's prospects of persuading others in Europe about the danger of proceeding with EMU in 1999. British leverage is small; but it is not worth reducing for that reason alone. EMU is creating extraordinary tensions in continental Europe. Their outcome is extremely uncertain. Why not stay poised to make the best of uncertain events?

Much can happen in the 18 months before EU governments meet in the spring of 1998 to decide who qualifies for EMU. Some governments know already that they cannot meet the Maastricht criteria by next year. They fear that they will be discriminated against by the "insiders". They may be highly receptive to Britain's argument about how damagingly divisive EMU will be.

Britain occupies the rotating EU presidency for the first half of 1998 and would preside over the critical summit. Among non-qualifiers, together with Scandinavian governments increasingly worried by the high unemployment costs of complying with Maastricht disciplines, Britain might hope to build a blocking minority against proceeding in 1999. The task would be to assemble 26 votes against any fudging of the criteria for those, such as Belgium, that could not otherwise qualify.

One increasingly attractive option for EMU's backers, therefore, is delay. German politicians, aware of the abiding unpopularity

of EMU with German voters and with their eye on the German national elections in 1998, may even come to endorse delay as the only way to rescue the project. As we report today on page 15, hints to that effect are coming both from Chancellor Kohl's likely successor, Wolfgang Schäuble, and his Finance Minister, Theo Waigel. Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat most likely to challenge Herr Kohl in 1998, openly looks to Britain to produce the "interesting arabesques" needed for a postponement.

British ambiguity cannot guarantee delay; and delay cannot guarantee an EMU derailment. There is even the risk that, by reassuring German voters, it would make EMU more likely. But the panic that the mere thought of delay evokes in the French Establishment suggests otherwise. In France, too, 1998 is a general election year and, well before then, the Chirac Government needs to be able to meet the Maastricht criteria and end austerity.

Even after the creative accounting that went into this year's French budget it is still too tough for the unions, who are taking to the streets again. Provided the timetable holds, Alain Juppé can still say, as he did yesterday, that "to give up now, when we are so close to the goal, would be pathetic" and would squander "the efforts over several years of our entire nation". If it slips, it would be political suicide to try to hold the budgetary line. In Germany earlier this year, M Juppé admitted that if EMU were postponed just for a year, "then it will be 2010 and nothing will have been done". For France, that looks like the plain truth.

For the British Government the odds are desperately hard to calculate. A derailing strategy will require deft tactical shifts and be as difficult to guide as it is to explain. There are no soundbites to be had, no words of easy reassurance to the Conservative Party faithful in Bournemouth. But to borrow from Kant, out of the crooked timber of European politics nothing straight was ever made. Great and lasting damage to Britain could result from EMU; those who would have the Government reject EMU now should first ask whether that is the best way to prevent such damage. On today's best reckoning, it is not.

OPEN LABOUR

Coming cleaner on tax, cracking harder on terrorism

By facing down his rebels and facing up to reality Tony Blair is showing a seriousness about power which may make it capture more likely. The Labour leader is right to act against those in his party who sabotage his chances of victory by posturing with pariahs. Mr Blair is also right to consider closing his credibility gap on taxation by providing some facts. Neither is a sufficient condition for victory but both are very necessary.

The threat of disciplinary action towards the Islington North MP, Jeremy Corbyn, for inviting the Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams to the House of Commons is a welcome assertion of Mr Blair's authority. Mr Adams put himself beyond the pale when the IRA ended its ceasefire. He is more than an apologist for terror: he is a leader of the republican movement whose plans to inflict potentially massive loss of life were, mercifully, intercepted on Monday.

Mr Adams hoped to use this week to advance the case for the violent dismemberment of this country with a partial, and polemical, autobiography. The discovery that IRA terrorists were planning a series of "spectaculars" has been a better insight into the nature of republicanism than any glossy hardback. Mr Corbyn was still happy to give Mr Adams a platform in the Commons, holding cheap the lives of innocents and the principles of the House. Labour's Chief Whip, Donald Dewar, was quite correct to warn Mr Corbyn of the consequences.

COOL BRITANNIA

Fashion's fickle eye is fixed on London

A fusillade of flashbulbs and an autumnal rustle of chequered skirts has marked this season's London Fashion Week. Britain's frockfest has long been Cinderella beside those uncouth sisters of haute couture, Paris and Milan. Not this year: in both media and marketplace there is unprecedented interest in the designs of London.

British designers may not have the glamour of Paris or the elegance of Milan. But, like so much of current British culture, they have a sense of excitement and engagement that leaves rivals looking like dowdy dowagers upstaged by a coltish mistress. It is a cause for celebration far beyond South Molton Street that native talent has seduced, and held, fashion's fickle eye. British fashion employs 400,000 people and earned £3 billion in exports last year.

Just three years ago the elegant nostrils of the vogueish detected the smell of death about London Fashion Week. But three years in fashion is the equivalent of a thousand in history — long enough for a city to move from decadence to barbarism and then enjoy a renaissance. The number of buyers clustered round London catwalks has been on a steep upward incline for the past two seasons. Designers from abroad, most notably New York's Donna Karan and Tommy Hilfiger, are showing in London this week, anxious to associate themselves with the Britic buzz.

whether partnerships such as Copperwheat Blundell and Clements Ribeiro, or individuals such as Antonio Berardi and Alexander McQueen, have made London matter. Like literary Paris in the Thirties, or artistic Soho in the Fifties, London is seen by the fashion world as a nursery for genius.

Britain is the natural home of the idiosyncratic. When fashion's face became blander in the Eighties, Britain, as so often before, stood out alone. Vivienne Westwood, like Margaret Thatcher, helped to save individualism in Britain by her exertions and in Europe by her example.

Now, in the Nineties, a reaction against corporate conformity has made the quixotic more commercial than the commercial. That has helped British fashion, which has always been more street than elite. It takes its influences from the bottom up, sometimes literally in the case of instant classics such as Alexander McQueen's "bumsters" which create a cleavage closer to the building-site than the boudoir.

But the sassiness on show on the *passarella* also reflects a broader British pop-cultural self-confidence. A distinctive attitude, heard in the accessible but subversive lyrics of new British bands, apparent in the ironic installations of young conceptual artists and even informing the cooking in London's new-wave restaurants is audible, visible, even edible evidence of a country

German role in modern Europe

From Mr David Powis

Sir, The revelation by George Urban (September 23) that Lady Thatcher's views on Germany and the Germans were "not all that different from the Alf Garnett version of history" is shocking, but perhaps not altogether surprising.

Throughout this century, Britain has suffered from political leaders with no real feel for European ideas or culture. Has any British Premier spent an extended period of time, in a non-political role, in another European country, or taken the trouble to master another European language?

It is accepted as normal that British politicians, from Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary downwards, will visit Germany and address their audiences in English, just as it is equally accepted that most German statesmen on visits to the UK will address us in English. Why do we persist in this arrogant attitude to our continental neighbours, most of whom are economically more successful than we are?

If British political leaders had been better travelled, more deeply cultured, less chauvinistic and better linguists, the history of the 20th century might have been very different.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID POWIS,
The Corner House,
Inkberrow, Hereford and Worcester.
September 23.

From Mr John Lyons

Sir, In your editorial of September 23 you state that Lady Thatcher's "anxieties about German domination have been in many respects vindicated by Chancellor Kohl's drive for monetary and political union".

That sentiment, I have found, lies at the heart of the view of many of the Euro-sceptic (in reality Europhobe) Tory Right. But as your own words demonstrate, it is based on a fallacy and is a contradiction in terms. If Germany wanted to dominate Europe it would try to break up the EU not seek to turn it into an effective transnational organisation in which its own economic and political power is irrevocably subsumed.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LYONS,
305 Salmon Street, Kingsbury, NW9.
September 24.

From Mr M. Fooks

Sir, Mr Urban says (September 23) with regard to institutional guarantees in Germany: "These could not be easily circumvented by a future extremist party or a dictator". How naive. This sort of thing was no obstacle to Hitler and would be no obstacle to a Hitler Mark II. The fact that opinions are shared with Alf Garnett does not invalidate them.

Yours faithfully,
M. FOOKS,
24 Bloomsbury Square, WC1.
September 24.

From Mr Patrick Hassetti

Sir, George Urban refers today to Margaret Thatcher's "rather old-fashioned" nationalism.

Old-fashioned? Much blood is currently being shed around the world in the name of nationalism; I doubt Mr Urban would win many converts to his view among the nationalists in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.

Surely nationalism was behind the German desire for the unification of their country.

Yours,
PATRICK HASSETTI,
2 Kensington Close,
Haglands Lane, West Chilton,
Pulborough, West Sussex.
September 23.

From Mr Paul Richards

Sir, I read with interest today George Urban's opinion that Margaret Thatcher "lost faith in Major in only 22 days". What took her so long?

I remain, Sir, etc.
PAUL RICHARDS
(Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Billericay),
109 Hammersmith Bridge Road, W6.
September 24.

Clarke and currency

From Mr Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton North (Conservative)

Sir, It is now inconceivable that any foreseeable Conservative government would seek to join a European single currency.

It is also impossible for the Conservative Party to win the election unless opposition to Britain's participation becomes the confident and declared policy of the party.

It is evident that the Chancellor is more committed to a federal Europe than he is to Conservative government. He should go.

Yours faithfully,
TONY MARLOW,
House of Commons.
September 25.

From Mr Don Weedon

Sir, The European single currency should get off to a good start on its launching day, January 1, 1999, which is (a) a Friday and (b) a Bank Holiday.

Yours faithfully,
DON WEEDON,
16 Winsford Gardens,
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Lessons from Maxwell trial for Serious Fraud Office

From Mr Anthony McStravick

Sir, Your leading article of September 20, "Serious farce", highlights once again the continuing misfortunes of the Serious Fraud Office (letters, September 21).

Unfortunately, I fear that whatever body, if not the SFO, had prosecuted in most of the big fraud trials that have occurred in recent years would have had similar criticisms levelled at it. Despite the 1986 recommendations of Lord Roskill's fraud trials committee, most of which were rejected by the House of Commons, we are in no better shape now, and maybe worse, than we were then.

As a former Metropolitan Police detective chief superintendent I had first-hand experience of the SFO from its inception and worked with the directors, John Wood, Barbara Mills and the present incumbent, George Staple. Apart from the complexity of many cases during that period the main hurdle facing them and the case controllers was that raised in your article — the problem of the responsibility for investigation and prosecution lying in the same hands. Despite valiant attempts, and some verbal gymnastics, difficulties and conflict were ever present, mainly for the lawyers.

The role of investigation should surely be returned to the police. Some of the SFO budget could then be applied to enlisting the assistance of lawyers and accountants, much as under the fraud investigation group, and the police should be allowed the same Section 2 powers as the lawyers and accountants, as recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY MCSTRAVICK
(Senior Consultant),
Control Risks Group Ltd,
83 Victoria Street, SW1.
September 23.

From Mr Keith E. Oliver

Sir, Reaction in some of the media to the decision of Mr Justice Buckley to stay further criminal proceedings against Kevin Maxwell has been depressingly familiar to those concerned with his defence.

The jury trial of what the prosecution considered to be the most serious

alleged criminality, namely conspiracy to defraud the Maxwell pensioners, lasted 131 court days. There had earlier been over 60 days of preliminary hearings.

Over 70 witnesses were called. Kevin Maxwell himself gave evidence for over 20 days. In summing up, Lord Justice Phillips said of Mr Maxwell: "I doubt if there have ever been many criminal cases where the jury have had a better opportunity to study the demeanour of a witness."

After one of the longest jury retirements on record (seven days of deliberation), the defendants were unanimously acquitted. The following morning, the Attorney-General said fit to announce, on national radio, that the Government was now looking at the use of juries in serious fraud cases.

A fair system of criminal justice must be judged according to whether or not individuals accused of serious crime can be tried within a reasonable time and have the opportunity properly to defend themselves. Merely because the jury concludes that a defendant did not act dishonestly does not in any way represent a "failure" or "fiasco" or "farce" as the Maxwell case has variously been described in some of the recent headlines: neither does it represent a failure for the Serious Fraud Office, who all too frequently appear to be judged according to criteria more appropriate to a sporting enterprise than to a properly resourced investigative and prosecuting authority. As Mr Justice Buckley put it:

"I am suggesting that if all parties played their part and the essential criminality alleged has been placed before a jury who have acquitted, it should be unusual for a second trial to take place. The reason is that it would be very likely to appear to the public that the authorities were not prepared to accept the verdict of a jury and were prepared to pursue the defendant at whatever cost to the public purse, court time or disruption to the defendant's personal life, business or professional career. That must not happen."

Widespread criticism of the jury system is insulting to the 12 jurors who so manifestly discharged their duty to try the defendants according to the evidence. Many of the 70-plus written questions the jury asked during the course of the trial demonstrated, to all of those present, a keen un-

derstanding of the issues that lay at the heart of the case.

Lord Justice Phillips and Mr Justice Buckley have ensured that common sense and fairness remain at the heart of our criminal justice system. For that, they deserve our gratitude.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH E. OLIVER,
Peters & Peters
(Solicitors to Kevin Maxwell),
2 Harewood Place,
Hanover Square, W1.
September 23.

From Mr Edward Freeman

Sir, If, as Mr Jonathan Goldberg says (letter, September 21), the real issue at the heart of a fraud is often "relatively simple", the onus must be on counsel to elucidate the matter convincingly before a jury.

To suggest that the inclusion of experts, such as accountants, stockbrokers or bankers, amongst jurors would present "no real danger of their attaching too much weight to [the expert's] views" is either naive or wishful thinking: we all know how laymen defer to "expert" advice, even if there are clearly good and bad experts. And, if expert jurors were introduced in cases of serious fraud, why stop there? Either the jury system works or it doesn't: tampering with it is likely to produce more problems than it solves.

However, clearly not all barristers are able to unravel complex and technical issues effectively in court. In which case, why not allow jurors more direct access to expert witnesses themselves, just like the ones Mr Goldberg uses himself?

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD FREEMAN,
The Gables, South Strand,
East Preston, West Sussex.
September 22.

From Mr Raymond Durrant

Sir, Would there have been calls for changes in the way fraud trials are conducted, had the Maxwell brothers been convicted?

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND DURRANT,
195 Marshalsfield Lane,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
September 24.

No easy answers

From Mr Richard Ward

Sir, Mrs Anne Baring writes about the fascination with the paranormal (letter, September 21; see also letter, September 18) as if it cannot be understood by the scientific community. But surely scientists have a fascination with the "mysteries of life" that is at least as deep as anyone else's.

The contempt science has for so much of the "paranormal" stems from the way believers often use no consistent set of investigative criteria which would allow their claims to be checked and confirmed. They play fast and loose with scientific method when they haven't rejected it outright, moving the goalposts at will, and never moving their beliefs in the light of new, or the persistence of weak, evidence. They then expect their claims to be taken seriously as hidden knowledge of the unrecognised universe.

If this stance is not "arrogant and repellent, not to say immature" — one of Mrs Baring's jibes against science — then I don't know what is.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WARD,
134 Courthill Road, SE13.
September 23.

High life

From the Editor of The New Yorker

Sir, Has Magnus Linklater lost his marbles? In his jaunty featurette, "Joining the jet set", today he sticks a quote in my mouth that has me complaining to my husband that I am sick and tired of being the only person at "smart" New York dinner parties who has to travel on dull old Concorde. This is totally fabricated. What's next — that I jet in caviar to feed my cat?

Yours sincerely,
TINA BROWN,
Editor, The New Yorker,
20 West 43rd Street,
New York, NY 10036-7441.
September 25.

Road to fame

From Mr Michael H. Liddell

Sir, Oklahoma is a mere drop in the ocean (letters, September 19 and 25). Surely the biggest (and, presumably, the best) title role for Elaine Paige is that of *South Pacific*.

Yours faithfully,
M. LIDDELL,
39 Distons Lane,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.
September 25.

Name game

From Dr John F. Grimshaw

Sir, Can the words of a traditional song possibly explain why Colin Dexter's engaging hero has been so unlucky in love? "One is one and all alone. Endeavour Morse shall be so?"

Yours sincerely,
JOHN GRIMSHAW,
37 Leylands, Viewfield Road, SW18

Conscious machines

From the Reverend Anthony Freeman

Sir, Igor Aleksander (letter, September 21) is working to develop a conscious machine which will benefit medical research. To be of use, he says, such machines must be constructed in a way that allows them to build up a real sense of "identity". They will then make possible "experiments which could not be done on living creatures". This raises a moral question.

The limits set on acceptable experiments on humans (and to an increasing extent other animals also) are governed by the principle that, as conscious agents with their own identity and point of view, they have a right to be respected for themselves. They should not simply be used as means to an end, however beneficial.

By his own reckoning, unless the artificial consciousness created by Professor Aleksander has its own sense of identity it will not be similar enough to humans to be of use in medical research.

But if it does have its own sense of identity, should it not be subject to the

same safeguards as other conscious agents? In which case the experiments he has in mind would be morally unacceptable.

Paradoxically, if a conscious machine is achieved, it will *ipso facto* have lost the very useful characteristic of being a mere tool.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY FREEMAN
(Managing Editor),
Journal of Consciousness Studies,
Imprint Academic, PO Box 1,
Thorverton, Exeter, EX5 5YX.
September 22.

From Mr David Cathcart

Sir, Pace Matthew Parris (article, September 16) and Professor Aleksander, there is a way in which we know that other people are conscious. It is not a proof but it is wholly convincing. It is when we love them.

We shall know that a machine is conscious if we come to love it.

Yours etc,
DAVID CATHCART,
Little Barliffs,
Milverton, Taunton, Somerset.
September 21.

Suitable treatment

From Mr J. J. M. Black

Sir, I feel it is quite wrong to give so much attention today in your report, "Smartest patients get the best care", and leading article to what you acknowledge is anecdotal evidence.

It is offensive to imply that NHS accident and emergency staff will more rapidly treat affluent trauma victims and, likewise, to infer that medical staff are more likely to suspect child abuse in patients from socially deprived backgrounds.

All trauma victims are assessed and treated according to well-defined protocols that rapidly define clinical priority.

Dr Hammond's anecdotal observations make for great theatre but poorly represent current standards of medical practice within NHS accident and emergency departments.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN J. M. BLACK
(Senior Registrar),
A and E Department,
John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.
September 23.

From Mr Peter Wade

Sir, Your report suggests that if you look like "a potential litigant, or a friend of the consultant" you get the best medical treatment.

I don't believe a word of it but I have ordered a badge saying "Some of my best friends are consultants" and carry a rolled up copy of *The Lawyer* under my arm.

I am hoping it will do the trick.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WADE,
70 Heath Road,
Lewden, Colchester, Essex.
September 24.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number —

OBITUARIES

Colin "Hoppy" Hodgkinson, wartime legless fighter pilot, died at his home in the Dordogne on September 13 aged 76. He was born at Wells, Somerset, on February 11, 1920.

Less well known than his celebrated RAF compeer, the legless fighter ace Douglas Bader, Colin Hodgkinson actually began his flying career in the Fleet Air Arm, and only subsequently switched to the RAF. Bader's story had in fact been his inspiration after he lost both his legs in a flying accident while training with the Fleet Air Arm in 1939.

Struggling in hospital to recover from his horrific injuries which included severe burns, Hodgkinson was greatly heartened by the knowledge that the older man had triumphed over the loss of his own legs to establish himself as a combat pilot.

"If he can do it, so can I," was the reaction of this always rugged personality. Filled with a desire to fly Spitfires, he soon wangled his way out of the Navy. Shortly afterwards he was accepted for flying training by the RAF and by the middle of 1942 was a fully fledged fighter pilot.

By that time Bader, who had been brought down over northern France when a German fighter collided with his Spitfire, was a prisoner of war. Though his legless successor had fewer opportunities to build up such a tally of kills (since by then it was the RAF which was on the offensive,

and the fighters of the Third Reich who had the opportunity to wreak havoc among the raiders), he soon made himself a reputation, especially with No 611 Squadron in the famous Biggin Hill Wing.

His shooting, originally learnt against feathered targets on his father's Somerset estate, was particularly noted for its accuracy. On one occasion in the summer of 1943, while it was escorting a bombing raid, 611 was suddenly assailed by three entire *Staffeln* of Focke Wulf 190 fighters — nearly fifty aircraft.

The FW 190s were all of the "Dora" mark, formidable aircraft of great speed and awesome rate of climb, and theoretically superior to the Spitfire. But 611, led by the charismatic "Laddie" Lucas — famous for his legendary exploits in the air defence of Malta in the previous year — wheeled and tore into the foe without a second's hesitation.

In a running battle which took place high above the English Channel, Hodgkinson accounted for one of the five FW 190s which fell to 611's guns that day, finishing his opponent off with a well-judged deflection shot.

Colin Hodgkinson was the son of a First World War fighter pilot (who was to serve again, in RAF Intelligence, in the Second). He grew up steeped in country pursuits: shooting, hunting, fishing. He was educated at Pangbourne Nautical College before, in the autumn of 1938, joining the Fleet Air Arm (then newly reinstated as an autonomous force, naval flying having been



under the aegis of the RAF almost since the end of the First World War.

Having qualified as a pilot and had experience of deck take-offs and landings, Hodgkinson was practising blind flying over Kent when his aircraft collided with another. Both plummeted to earth. Hodgkinson, unable to extricate himself, was still on board when his Tiger Moth hit the ground, and he sustained

severe injuries. Eventually, as in the case of Bader, one of his legs had to be amputated above the knee, the other below. He was also severely burnt and spent some time as one of Sir Archibald McIndoe's "Guinea Pigs" in the burns unit at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead.

At least, having discovered the resolve to continue flying, he did not have to endure the agonising wait suffered by Bader, to get back into the air. Bader, whose crash had been in December 1931, had fought red tape for eight years, before the outbreak of war and a desperate shortage of pilots had persuaded the authorities that his manifest abilities could be of use to his country. By the time Hodgkinson returned to a semblance of battle fitness a war was already raging.

At first the Fleet Air Arm would accept him back only for ground duties. But, armed with his tin legs from the Roehampton rehabilitation centre, he was soon demonstrating both the capacity and the desire for air combat. "I am just waiting for the day when I can get my first Hun," he chafed as he perfected air fighting skills, first in Fulmars and then in Hurricanes. There was only one caveat. As a

shipboard fighter pilot he felt he was certain to be dragged straight to the bottom by his tin legs if he came down in the sea. This, and the desire to fly Spitfires, was the motivation behind his transfer to the RAF — though even there, given the amount of over-Channel flying likely to be involved, he filled up his metal limbs with ping pong balls, just in case.

By the time he got on to squadron service with the RAF, Fighter Command had gone over to the offensive and he had his first sorties during sweeps over France, when roving Spitfires shot up and rocketed targets of opportunity, such as troop and supply trains and military convoys.

When he joined 611 Squadron in 1943 he was engaged mainly in escorting bombing raids and strikes against enemy shipping. In December 1943 he was a flight commander with 510 Squadron when he was ordered out on a high altitude weather reconnaissance over the Pas de Calais. In what was a brand new aircraft, freshly delivered to the squadron, it appears that the oxygen supply system was defective.

While climbing to over 30,000 feet Hodgkinson passed out and lost control of his aircraft which then spun to earth. Astonishingly, he survived crashing into a French field. When he woke up it was in a ward of a French hospital; he had been rescued from his wrecked and burning Spitfire by local farmers.

Like Bader he became a PoW, although for nothing like so long a period. After ten

months he was offered repatriation, which he accepted. He returned to England, but by that time the war was virtually over. By the time he flew again it was on ferry duties. Mundane though these were, they provided an opportunity for a little smuggling. In the confusion of the immediate postwar period Hodgkinson and pilots of like mind who were delivering aircraft to France, smuggled out tea, coffee and lengths of cloth, and brought back brandy and bottles of perfume. Fun though this was, it was also illegal and was terminated when the Inland Revenue made some discreet hints to that effect.

Although retired from the RAF in 1946, Hodgkinson continued to fly at weekends with the RAAF as a pilot of Vampires. He subsequently had successful careers in advertising and public relations, and even, as a Conservative, contested the Labour safe seat of West Islington at the general election of 1955. In 1983 he travelled to France to meet his two sons, the farmers Albert Desmazures and André Mareville, who had dragged him from his Spitfire forty years before. In a simple ceremony at the hamlet of Wandonne, 30 miles south-east of Calais, he was presented with part of the propeller of his aircraft.

Later, Hodgkinson retired to France himself, and is survived by his French second wife Georgina, and the daughter of his first marriage. His first wife, the fashion model June Hunter, predeceased him.

IAN MURRAY

Ian Murray, trombonist and bandmaster, died of a heart attack on September 15 aged 35. He was born on January 20, 1961.

A TALL, good-humoured young Englishman, Ian Murray wrought an extraordinary transformation in the musical life of a small whitewashed town in the mountains of southern Spain. At the time of his death last weekend, he was on the way back from Fort William to his adopted home of Aracena, in Andalusia. Together with the members of Aracena's junior band and their families, he was returning from an enormously successful week in the Scottish Highlands, on a visit that had followed last year's tour of Spain by their Scottish hosts, the Lochaber Youth Band. The trip to Scotland — the first time many of those involved had left Andalusia — was the latest chapter in an improbable musical adventure.

In 1992 the city of Seville, hosting Expo 92, formed a symphony orchestra. Ian Murray, a talented young trombonist from Norwich, then playing with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

in Glasgow, was one of a number of foreigners who were persuaded to move to Spain to join it. With his wife, Janet, and infant daughter, Gabriella, he made his home in a small village in the mountains about an hour and a half from Seville.

It was not long before the Mayor of nearby Aracena, hearing that a professional brass player was at hand, came to call. Notwithstanding his full-time job with the orchestra, Murray agreed to take on the leadership of the town's decrepit brass band. He had heard the band already, so he knew the challenge he faced: but such was his presence, determination and good nature, that in a very short time he changed the creaky remnants he inherited into a band that was bursting with pride and life.

Founded a century ago, Aracena's band had fallen on decidedly hard times. Murray took over a group of about 40 players, all keen and willing, but limited both in ability and in repertoire. None could read music, and performances relied largely on *fortissimo* renderings of the half dozen or so marches that everyone could remember how to play.

Quickly overcoming any resistance the players may have had to the idea of "a tall blond Protestant standing in front of them like a berk", as he himself once (typically) put it, Murray's first step was to introduce some much-needed discipline into a band that, by its members' own admission, was "horrible to listen to".

So enthusiastic was the response to his efforts that the band not only began to play better but soon doubled in size, and Murray found himself self-faced with the wholly unexpected problem of how to limit the numbers clamouring to join. By the time "el maestro Murray" led his players through the town at the head of this year's festival procession, the band's technical standards were superb and its repertoire ranged from Saint-Saëns to Stephen Sondheim.

But Murray's efforts went beyond improving the playing of the band. He took upon himself the task of introducing the young people of the area to music. Soon most of his free time was spent in parades and practices and in fundraising for instruments and equipment, as well as arranging tours and concerts in the local villages and farther afield. Today there are more than 200 children learning instruments in the town.

In a country of parades and festivals, pilgrimages and dancing, music plays a most important part, and a town whose band can compete with the best is a town to be reckoned with. In spite of — or perhaps because of — his being one of only a handful of foreigners in the district, Murray's efforts were known and respected for miles around.

In just four years this cheerful, charming foreigner had made a remarkable impact. Of Aracena's small population, nearly 2,000 crowded into the town's church for an ecumenical funeral service, itself without precedent in this deeply Catholic part of Spain. The vast crowd that walked in silent procession to the church bore witness to the great loss, both personal and civic, felt by this rural community.

Ian Murray's wife and daughter survive him.

PROFESSOR JACK PEPYS

Professor Jack Pepys, Professor of Clinical Immunology at the Brompton Hospital, 1967-79, died on September 9 aged 82. He was born on May 15, 1914.

JACK PEPYS was an outstanding clinical researcher who made substantial contributions to our understanding of allergic diseases. His particular talent was to unravel complex mechanisms in specific allergic processes. An association between farmer's lung and mouldy hay, for instance, had been known about since the 1930s, but the specific cause remained elusive and there was much debate as to whether the disease was allergic in nature. Pepys and his co-workers discovered the specific cause — allergy to moulds — and developed a blood test for farmer's lung which has remained routine in clinical practice ever since.

It soon became clear that there were many variants of this particular form of allergic lung disease — for which the terms extrinsic allergic alveolitis was coined — including bird breeder's (fancier's) lung and a similar problem caused by inhaled putrefactive dust once used as a form of hormone replacement.

Pepys also achieved international acclaim for his work on allergic lung diseases caused by various fungi. These complex conditions, which can be fatal if unrecognised, were found to have a basic immunological nature. This made it possible to explain the patterns of tissue destruction and develop further specific diagnostic tests.

On top of this, Pepys pioneered "experimental models" of provoked asthma and extrinsic allergic alveolitis in the clinical laboratory, and in this way was able not only to unravel disease processes but also to explain the basis of the mode of action of various anti-allergic drugs.

Another landmark contribution was his study on occupational asthma. He developed a series of simple inhalation tests which enabled a cause and effect relationship

to be established between asthma and low molecular weight chemicals and other sensitising agents in the workplace. Using serological tests he was able to set the scene for subsequent studies on the immunopathology of occupational asthma. This eventually led to occupational asthma being recognised as an industrial disease liable to compensation.

Jacob Pepys — always known as Jack — was born in Johannesburg and studied medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand. Having graduated in 1935 he was to



remain in South Africa for the next 14 years, working in general practice and having various affiliated academic appointments in Johannesburg and Cape Town. His interest in allergies and allergic diseases was aroused after he bought a set of skin testing solutions and found himself intrigued by their effects. He was to pursue this field of study for the rest of his life.

In 1948 Pepys and his family moved to London. After appointments at the Institute of Laryngology and Otolaryngology and St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, he became clinical assistant to Professor J.G. Scadding at the Brompton Hospital.

During the 1950s he set up an allergy clinic at the Brompton Hospital which soon became world-renowned. Operating from this base, he worked with a characteristic energy and enthusiasm to establish an academic depart-

ment of clinical immunology with a special interest in allergic diseases. It was the first of its kind in Britain.

He was appointed honorary consultant in clinical immunology at the Brompton Hospital in 1960, and research laboratories were provided at the then Institute of Diseases of the Chest (now the National Heart & Lung Institute). The research group was initially set up with support from the Medical Research Council. He was appointed Reader in 1964 and Professor of Clinical Immunology in 1967.

Pepys always remained immensely popular with the staff and students with whom he worked and, though he could show great firmness, he was a man of gentle nature. As a lecturer he was lucid and concise.

In 1971 Pepys founded and became the first editor of the journal *Clinical Allergy* (now *Clinical and Experimental Allergy*), which was to become one of the most popular journals in the field. The early issues contained the classic descriptions of the causes of occupational asthma. He was a prolific and clear writer publishing more than 200 scientific articles in national and international journals.

He was an active member of a number of societies related to his field of research, and was president of the International Association of Allergology and Clinical Immunology. He held several academic distinctions, including honorary degrees from the University of Clermont-Ferrand (1973) and the University of Ferrara (1991). His achievements were especially well recognised abroad, and, earlier this year, despite failing health, he crossed the Atlantic to be present at the ceremony in which he was presented with the highest award which the US could offer him: the Special Presidential Recognition Award from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

He is survived by his wife Rhoda; by a daughter; and by a son who is Professor of Immunological Medicine at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School.



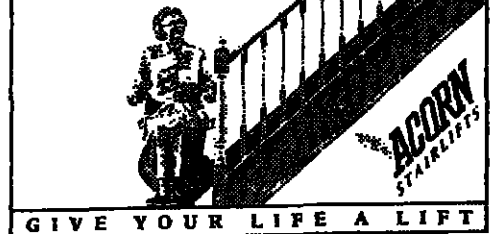
Ian Murray with young members of the Aracena band

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120 The Strand, London WC2R 2ES
Notice is hereby given that the above named firm of solicitors, acting for the above named company, has been instructed to take action for the recovery of the sum of £250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand pounds) from the company named above, in respect of the redemption by the company of the shares of the company named above, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1985.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Howard Doris Pension Fund
Martin Yallop, Richard Peters and Iris Fairbank, as trustees of the above pension scheme, hereby give notice that the scheme, hereby given notice that the scheme is to be wound up. All beneficiaries should receive notification within the next two weeks. Any other claims or beneficiaries should make a claim by writing to the address below not later than 29 November 1996. After that date the scheme's assets will be distributed in meeting valid claims and providing benefits for beneficiaries known to the trustees. The trustees will then have no liability to subsequent claimants.

The trustees of the Howard Doris Pension Fund, c/o Martin Yallop, 2 Midway Road, Gillingham, Kent ME1 1NH.

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BOXING

BAER'S DEFEAT BY LOUIS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 25. Joe Louis, the negro boxer, today knocked out Max Baer, a former heavy-weight champion of the world, in the fourth round of a 15-round contest at the Yankee Stadium. The attendance was over 90,000 and the receipts amounted to more than £180,000.
After taking a severe thrashing and being floored for counts of nine and four in the third round, Baer went down again towards the end of the fourth from a terrific right. He struggled up on one knee, but could rise no more before being counted out. From the first bell to the last Baer never stood a chance against the negro, who is hailed by ring-side critics as one of the greatest heavy-weights, perhaps the greatest negro heavy-weight, ever to enter the ring, not excepting Jack Johnson. Baer had never before been knocked out.
In the first round Baer attacked and landed a hard right to the jaw, but Louis got home a left hook and was quickly on the offensive. Baer covered up, and when he had recovered sufficiently to advance he could do nothing effective. He was already showing signs of battle, but he fought on pluckily and connected with a left and right to the jaw, which knocked

ON THIS DAY

September 26, 1935

Max Baer (1909-59), a formidable boxer, was also a natural comic; during his fight with Primo Carnera, when he won the world heavyweight title, both men at one point were on the canvas: "Last one ups a cisy," said Baer.

Louis's head back. In a bout of hard hitting that followed Louis outboxed his man, but Baer only laughed. A few moments later the negro battered him in a corner. Baer, after taking a lot of punishment, managed to cover up when in a helpless position. It was Louis's round.

A left jab from Louis opened the second round. Baer was watching for an opening for a hard punch to the stomach, but he could not find it. Louis landed a hard right hook to the nose, which caused the blood to flow more freely, and kept on hitting Baer's face with short, sharp blows. Just before the bell Louis took a hard left and right on the jaw which rocked him, but it was Louis's round.
Baer began the third round fighting with both fists to the head, but Louis backed away cleverly and fell into a clinch. The referee warned Baer to keep his punches up. Louis, very cool, got in left hooks and jabs as he pleased, and had Baer constantly backing. Baer landed two lefts to the head and Louis replied with lefts and rights to the head. A terrific left hook put Baer on the floor. Baer, however, did not seem discouraged. He waved to the crowd from a sitting position, and got up at the count of nine. He could not make any impression on Louis, and the latter landed a hard right to the head and another left hook, which had Baer down again for a count of four. Baer laughed while on the canvas, but it was only the bell that saved him from being knocked out when he got up.
In the fourth round Louis worked Baer on to the ropes, where he hammered away at him with both fists. When Baer got free Louis continued to poke the latter's head back with lefts. Suddenly a terrific right hook floored Baer for the third time. This time he took the full count. He managed to get on one knee, but could not get up and was counted out. The end came after 29ins. 30sec. - Reuter

Short breaks boom as sun holidays fade

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

SHORT breaks in places as diverse and unexpected as the Polish salt mines, Table Mountain in Cape Town and the sand dunes of Dubai are becoming the latest holiday trend as Britons increasingly turn their backs on the traditional two weeks in the sun. The city break is booming after having levelled off during the recession and tour operators are offering an ever wider choice of cities and unusual resorts.

Travel agencies have sold £200 million worth of short-break holidays in the past year, 60 per cent of which are to cities and almost all at the full brochure price.

An estimated 600,000 people a year book city breaks through travel agencies and a further 150,000 make their own arrangements.

Demand is so great that Thomson, determined to regain its dominant position in the short-break market, is more than doubling the choice of cities available in its new City Breaks brochure, listing 32 destinations in Europe, America and South Africa.

New destinations include Boston and Washington, as well as the European cities of Warsaw, Cracow, Budapest, Copenhagen, Lisbon, Nice, Verona and Istanbul. The ability to pre-book visits to music festivals and historic sites, and even meals is proving a particular attraction to families with little time to plan their own itinerary. In Dubai, for example, holidaymakers who pay from £499 for three nights, including return flights, accommodation and breakfast, can pre-book a tour of Bedu villages and lunch in a wadi for £47 a person.

Seven nights in Cape Town cost from £999 in the low season and a visit to Table Mountain and the Cape of Good Hope is an extra £55. Three nights in Cracow costs from £335 in a four-star hotel and a four-hour visit to the salt mines costs an extra £22.

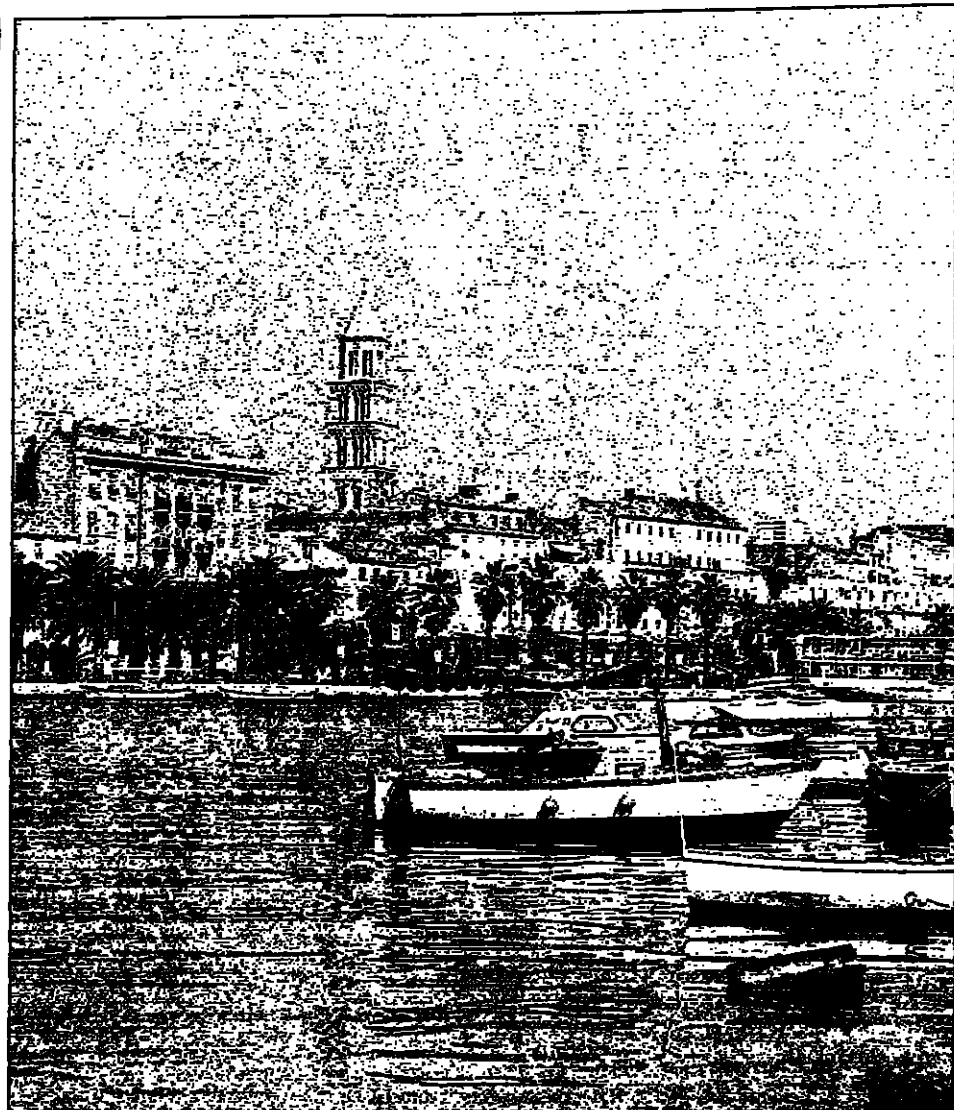
Charles Newbold, Thomson's managing director, says: "The attraction of short breaks is such that many holidaymakers are now opting for a city holiday each year, as well as the traditional beach

holiday. Next year's price rises are limited to about 1 per cent, so we expect to see a significant increase in demand."

For the city-break specialist Crystal Cities, Paris and Amsterdam are still favourites, followed by Dublin and Prague. But the introduction of the Eurostar train service has propelled Brussels into the seventh most popular spot.

Alan Betty, the product director of Crystal Cities, says: "The Belgian cities of Brussels and Bruges have shown a good increase this year as a result of Eurostar's popularity. Prague has been one of our top-selling destinations since the launch of the programme and the trend towards city combinations continues to grow; for example, an increasing number of clients are adding a stay in Vienna and Budapest."

First Choice Holidays is offering free grandparent places on holidays next summer. Grandparents must be aged over 60 and share a two-bedroom apartment with at least two full-fare-paying holidaymakers and one child.



Tourists are welcome once again in the attractive — and now peaceful — town of Split

Visitors return to Croatia

BY JOHN YOUNG

LOOKING slightly bemused, British passengers arriving at Split airport, in Croatia, last week were showered with roses and champagne and serenaded by guitars and mandolins. The occasion was the arrival of the first organised tour group since fighting began in 1991.

The party of 80 or so were clients of Saga Holidays which, before the fighting began, was taking some 22,000 people a year to 22 resorts along the Dalmatian coast. Local tourist officials greeted their arrival as the end of a nightmare and the start of a new era of peace and normality. But normality had not yet fully returned. There were other Britons around, in

camouflage jackets and carrying weapons — members of the Nato force engaged in peacekeeping operations.

In less turbulent times the spectacular Adriatic coast was the main draw for tourists to Yugoslavia, and resentment that much of the revenue was going to distant Belgrade was certainly a factor in Croatia's decision to go it alone. But with the outbreak of hostilities tourism ceased abruptly, and the hotels became home to thousands of refugees.

Many refugees are still unable to return home, but Urlich Hrvog, general manager of all the main hotels in the town of Makarska, is confident that they will soon be outnumbered by tourists.

"Realistically we expect a 20 to 30 per cent increase next year, and to be back up to 1990 levels in two or three years' time," he said.

"We are very happy to see Saga back, because our experience of British guests has been very good," he added. "We want to show people that Croatia is at peace and back to normal."

One couple happy to return were Brenda and James Best, of Edinburgh, who had been to the Croatian coast at least once a year since 1984.

"Some of our friends were pretty surprised when we told them we were coming back," said Mr. Best. "But we thought if Saga decided Croatia was safe, it would be."

Sally to axe Dunkirk ferry

BY STEVE KEENAN

SALLY Ferries has found a new fast-craft partner and is set to axe its Ramsgate to Dunkirk services next spring.

The latest development in the cross-Channel ferry war yesterday resulted in Sally announcing a split from its Belgian partner RMT, to become effective from next

March. RMT will cease trading and its three ferries and two jetties sold. Sally will then team up with the Australian fast-ferry specialist Holyman to run 90-minute catamaran crossings from Ramsgate to Ostend.

The decision comes after losses caused by the opening

of the Channel Tunnel. Sally lost £2 million last year and saw passenger numbers drop by 25 per cent in the first six months of 1996.

Bill Moses, Sally chief executive, said: "This will allow us to stem losses and steal a march on the market. The industry needs action, not words."

Scheduled airlines cut Nice flights

BY STEVE KEENAN

THREE scheduled airlines are likely to axe services to Nice this winter because of cut-price airline competition to the French Riviera. Air UK from Stansted and Air France from Heathrow are "reviewing" services and British Airways is ending flights from Gatwick. Air France is also cutting two other routes and taking on its first franchise airline outside France, Jersey European, to cut costs.

The decisions are partly based on the slump in holiday demand for France, and the Riviera, in particular. But the airlines have also been hit by EasyJet, a low-cost carrier, selling seats from Luton for £49 one-way, which undercuts even charter prices.

Bluebird Holidays ran two charters a week from Birmingham, Manchester and Gatwick this summer, but competition persuaded it to axe the series for next summer.

Stephen Powell, Bluebird's managing director, said: "In August, we were selling seats at £149 that sold for £229 last year. People who would normally fly from Manchester were driving to Luton to take advantage of EasyJet prices."

Bluebird will continue to sell scheduled seats to Nice. Only BA and British Midland will operate scheduled flights there, from Heathrow, this winter.

The move by Air France is part of a wider strategy review as the airline looks to move out

of the red and to compete with BA. AF will fly only from Heathrow to Paris Charles de Gaulle and Strasbourg, moving away from winter leisure routes to focus on building connecting traffic over CDG on to long-haul services. The carrier will also abandon Heathrow services to Bordeaux this winter and Paris Orly from October 28.

Jersey European is to operate Heathrow services on business-orientated routes to Lyons and Toulouse. The flights will operate as Air France Express under AF livery and flight codes.

Barry Perrott, JEA's chief executive, said Air France had asked JEA to look also at Nice and Bordeaux, but JEA had decided against them.

Air France is concentrating on building traffic to Paris CDG airport from Heathrow, London City, Edinburgh, Manchester and Birmingham. A spokesman said the proportion of UK passengers connecting to other AF flights at Paris CDG had risen from 29 per cent to 50 per cent in the past six months.

"That is the trend," he added. "Routes that are non-profitable and not likely to make money in future are very much under the magnifying glass. The future for us lies in increasing traffic to Paris. The rise since April has been largely because of those in transit. We are not going to rely on point-to-point traffic."



Visitors to Sea Life will reach 3.5 million this year

Closer encounters of a fishy kind

BY WILLY NEWLANDS

SEA LIFE is Britain's top leisure attraction. Visitors to the 16 aquariums will top 3.5 million by the end of the season, with a further one million viewing the ocean tanks in Holland, Belgium and Spain.

The group's growth has been rapid since the day, only 17 years ago, when the first Sea Life Centre opened on the banks of Loch Czeran, near Oban, Argyll.

The aquariums are all devoted to familiar British sea creatures but unusual presentations, such as the herring ring at Oban, in which 1,000 fish in their doughnut-shaped tank swim around the viewer, have drawn the crowds. The Oban centre became the West of Scotland's leading visitor attraction within a year.

The opening of the National Sea Life Centre in Birmingham this summer has achieved the aim of the owners, Dorset-based Vardon Attractions, by bringing an

aquarium within easy reach of almost anywhere in England, Scotland and Wales.

Nick Varney, the managing director, says: "In many cases, such as in the walk-through tunnels, visitors feel as if they are the ones enclosed, while the fish enjoy all the space they need, and more."

It is often the waist-high "sandy seabed" displays which captivate most visitors, with coffee-table sized rays nosing the surface to look at their admirers. Touch pools offer an opportunity to handle sturdy rockpool dwellers such as starfish, crabs and sea anemones.

The centres at Hunstanton, Oban and Scarborough have seal rescue and release operations. The group has also achieved success with the breeding of unusual fish, such as native sea loaches, establishing techniques which will be used in conservation programmes. For further information ring 0800 600 900.

Ghana back on tourist map

BY TONY DAWE

TWO African nations with strong links to Britain are back on the tourist beat as travel companies seek new destinations. A programme of holidays to Ghana begins shortly, while one tour operator, which introduced adventure trips to Uganda, reported

this week that its tours are sold out until January. Ghana is enjoying stability under President Jerry Rawlings, who was elected democratically in 1992 after leading two successful coups, and

Afriquest Tours has decided the country is a perfect undeveloped holiday destination. "Too much tourism in Africa is dominated by major companies and by those wishing to make quick money, so we looked for somewhere with a stable background which was eager to develop a tourist industry," said Veronica Reindorf of Afriquest, in Moorhampton, Hereford.

"Ghana is a beautiful country with tropical beaches, rainforests and the savannah further north, and it also boasts a wealth of culture and long-standing links with Britain." Tours begin on November 4 with weekly Monarch Airlines flights from Gatwick to the capital, Accra, and include a range of two-centre trips in addition to beach

holidays. Prices range from £950 for flights and a four-night four-star accommodation in Accra and either a beach resort or inland centre — with goldmines and monkey sanctuaries — to £450 for a week at a beach hotel.

Explore Worldwide reports that the response to its adventure tours to Uganda has been so great that they are sold out until next year. "Uganda is relatively small and all the highlights can be reached quite easily," said Derek Moore of Explore Worldwide. Prices for 17-day tours in January start at £1,045, including return flights, all travel, safari camps and meals.



A mass of water hyacinths carpet Lake Victoria in Uganda

A Special Announcement

ST CATHERINE'S MONASTERY & THE COLOURED CANYON

The recent opening of the 4-star Hilton Hotel in Nuweiba now makes it possible to combine St. Catherine's Monastery with further exploration of Sinai. The journey is further made possible by our direct flight from London Gatwick to Sinai. Our journey commences with a flight from London Gatwick to Sharm el-Sheikh and then by road to Nuweiba for a 7-night stay at the Coral Hilton resort on the Red Sea. The Coral Hilton, set on a 7km sandy beach, is an ideal centre from which to visit the spectacular sights of Sinai including the Monastery of St. Catherine and the Coloured Canyon. All rooms are air-conditioned with full facilities, choice of restaurants, bars, shops, swimming pool and a wide variety of evening entertainment and other leisure facilities. Optional day visits by ferry are also available to the rose red city of Petra.

The Monastery of St. Catherine's has attracted pilgrims since AD 337 when the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, ordered the building of a sanctuary around the site of the Burning Bush. Its setting at the foot of Mount Sinai adds to the solitude and mystery of the site. We are making a limited number of places available at a special tariff on the indicated

7 nights at the Coral Hilton Hotel by the Red Sea including special Christmas & New Year departures from just £395.00



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Prices include: return flights, 7 nights Nuweiba, breakfast only, excursion to St. Catherine's Monastery, transfers, local representative guide. Not included: travel insurance, visa procurement, airport taxes, tips. All bookings are accepted subject to our Conditions of Booking, available on request.

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HONG KONG	£190
DUBAI	£130
PHRANHESBURG	£120
BANGKOK	£170
CAPE TOWN	£110
AWAY	£180
EURO CITIES	£120
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NEWS

Brown goes for 50p higher tax rate

Gordon Brown has surprised members of the Labour Shadow Cabinet by telling them that he is considering a new 50p top rate of tax for earnings of over £100,000 a year.

The Shadow Chancellor lifted the veil on the tax plans of a Labour government at a pre-conference meeting. Several of his colleagues have been pressing for a new top rate to come in at a much lower level, but there has been a series of hints that Tony Blair wants to avoid hitting the middle classes. Pages 1, 11

Labour row over Adams invitation

The Labour leadership threatened to eject Jeremy Corbyn from the parliamentary party for his "reprehensible" behaviour in inviting Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, to the House of Commons today. Tony Benn is also involved in the "private meeting". Pages 1, 19

Gypsy ruling

A gypsy faces prosecution and eviction after the European Court of Human Rights ruled that she could not legally stay in her caravan on her own land in Cambridgeshire. Page 2

Westwood on show

Vivienne Westwood, the grande dame of British design, announced she would be showing her collections in England for the first time in a decade as London Fashion week opened. Page 3

Duchess on the rack

The Duchess of York may have to answer questions in court about her private life as she tries to ban a book about her relationship with John Bryan, her former financial adviser. Page 3

Neighbourly strife

A retired Cambridge professor and his wife who have enjoyed a decade of rural tranquillity are locked in a parking dispute with a new neighbour. Page 5

Stalking laws

Michael Howard is to press for urgent laws to outlaw stalking as part of his criminal justice Bill in the run up to the general election. Page 6

Health warning

Surgical procedures and medical drugs could in future be ranked in a risk league table to help patients to assess the chance of anything going wrong. Page 7

Dustmen in professor's bad books

Sir Frank Kermode, 76, former King Edward VII Professor of English Literature at Cambridge University, consigned 30 boxes of books and papers to a municipal dustcart when he mistook dustmen for removal men while moving house in May. He is claiming £20,000 compensation after many volumes were irreparably crushed in the compactor. Page 1

Rubens dispute

Artists challenging the attribution of Rubens's *Samson and Delilah* in the National Gallery believe that evidence presented in an auction house's catalogue was mistaken. Page 9

Hurd pitches in

Douglas Hurd fuelled the controversy over Europe in the Tory Party by warning John Major that it would be foolish to rule out membership of a single currency. Pages 11, 15, 19

Senate race

William Weld, the Republican Governor of Massachusetts and John Kerry, the Democratic senator, both multi-millionaires, are fighting the hottest Senate race in America. Page 12

Kabul battle

Taliban forces closed in on Kabul from three directions during fierce fighting with Afghan Government forces three miles from the city centre. Page 13

Yeltsin operation

President Yeltsin will definitely undergo heart bypass surgery but the operation will be postponed for six to ten weeks because of his poor health. Page 14

All to play for

The run-up to EMU resembles a poker game with the only certainty that either the rules will have to be bent or the 1999 start date delayed. Page 15



Israeli soldiers in Ramallah, on the West Bank, fired at Palestinians demonstrating about the Jerusalem tourist tunnel. Page 1

BUSINESS

Economy: The International Monetary Fund expects that next year Britain will have the most successful economy in Europe for the fourth consecutive year. Page 25

NetWest: The bank is to sell £3.2 billion of loans to large companies on to building societies and other financial institutions in Europe and America. Page 25

Jobs: Ford is cutting 1,000 jobs from its British workforce as the company battles to compete with increasingly efficient foreign plants. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 21.6 points to close at 3932.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 86.2 to 86.4 after a rise from \$1.5580 to \$1.5642 and from DM2.3574 to DM2.3623. Page 28

SPORT

Football: Arsenal were knocked out of the UEFA Cup when they lost 3-2 in Germany in the first round, second leg to Borussia Mönchengladbach. Page 48

Rugby union: Jack Rowell, the coach, said the next England captain had been selected, but would not be announced until the dispute between the RFU and the leading clubs had been resolved. Page 45

Cricket: Mohammad Akram, of Pakistan, has been lined up to play for Northamptonshire next year, ending the county career of Curly Ambrose. Page 42

Racing: Hamdan Al-Maktoum is to follow the example set by his brother, Sheikh Mohammed, and send his best two-year-olds to Dubai this winter. Page 43

ARTS

Thin Eyre: Zeffirelli brings Charlotte Brontë's masterpiece *Jane Eyre* to the screen, with plenty of pretty pictures but not nearly enough anguish. Page 33

New on video: John Travolta leads the cast of *Get Shorty* as the Miami loan shark who visits Los Angeles to round up money owed to the mob but finds a new career as a film producer. Page 34

Return to Whitehall: Farce is back in its traditional home with *Cash on Delivery*, complete with corpses, men in drag and an exploding washing machine. Page 35

Making Irish music: Can a Russian-born violinist turned conductor lead the Ulster Orchestra to glory in the year of its thirtieth anniversary? Page 35

FEATURES

Guru talk: Noreen Taylor is mesmerised by the sad, soulful blue eyes of Sir Laurens van der Post, who has just written his 25th book at the age of 90. Page 17

BODY AND MIND

Don't panic: Patients with panic attacks complain that they cannot breathe fast enough to stay alive. Dr Thomas Stuttaford advises how you can help. Page 16

TRAVEL

Boom breaks: Short holidays in strange places such as Polish salt mines are booming. Page 22

Croatia comeback: First organised tour to the area since fighting broke out in 1991. Page 22

BOOKS

Reviews: Conor Cruise O'Brien on the life of Michael Collins; Claire Tomalin admires Emily Tennison, the poet's wife. Plus Rachel Cusk on Muriel Spark; and Alistair Horne, Sean French and Malcolm Bradbury. Pages 36, 37

THE PAPERS

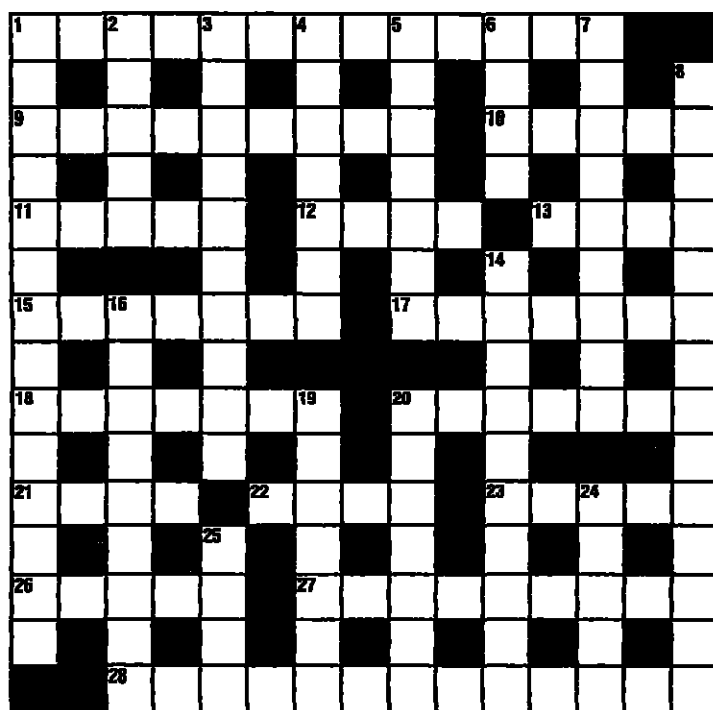
The whole of the package approved by the EU Finance Ministers in Dublin is the fruit of consensus politics. The optimistic reaction of the markets reflects a belief that the Euro will come into existence on the date prescribed for it. The boat is now leaving port — *El País*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES
■ **LYNNE TRUSS** Kicking off her new weekly column, Lynne Truss reports from the terraces of her home-town heroes

■ **POP** Sheryl Crow's follow-up album and other new releases reviewed

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,283



- ACROSS**
- Figure at one stage included in dance, finally cut (13).
 - Get rid of letter - police are coming round (9).
 - Record incidental music (5).
 - Subject of article by present writer (5).
 - Grass - nearly always religiously kept cut to the minimum (4).
 - Crew forbidden to speak (4).
 - Carried too far, old composer died (7).
 - Marathon leader's total disaster, as result of race mix-up (7).
 - Nancy works as dairymaid - brief spell of work (7).
 - Queen on walkabout, so to speak (7).
 - Give way to eastern pundit (4).
 - Sound contented, having turned up with bishop (4).
- DOWN**
- Disconcerted as result of being reported (5).
 - Record number of competitors (5).
 - Painter using a red Corot depicted (9).
 - Little house within land borders rebuilt without restriction (2,5,6).
 - One's quite smart - could become chairman (8-6).
 - Quickly producing pop-up card (5).
 - Create it as rude as possible (5,1,4).
 - Erudite humorist, Edward (7).
 - Principle English men introduced to other people (7).
 - Sir Stratford's it's right to employ (4).
 - Let eyes follow mind (4,5).
 - Unusually, he drew odd total out (4,2,3,5).
 - Where to see stars in programme, with excellent value coming up (10).
 - Free from prejudice. I lengthen poets (9).
 - Poet's written a line with some force (7).
 - Instruments produced by arbitrators after a month (7).
 - One turns round and round, up and down (5).
 - Mistaken belief held by army theoreticians (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,282

SUBVILLAIN SUMAC
ORIGINAL CRABBUS
NIGHTMARE
GOETH MUSCOVITE
EATERS
BROWNING HERB
ALDEGDCAC
GODS AUTISTIC
SAPLASH
DUCKBOAT SHAD
RORLOBO DIORAMA
SOLLO ENGRAVING

Times Two Crossword page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0981 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Great London	701
North-Surrey	702
West-Herts & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wales/Gloucester/Somerset	705
Yorkshire/Leeds	706
North-South Coast	707
West Midlands	708
Stratford & Warwick	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincoln & Humberside	712
Yorkshire & Cleveland	713
W. & N. England	714
W. & S. Wales & Wales	715
W. & S. Wales & Wales	716
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AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE Britain, roadworks	731
London & SE Britain, roadworks	732
London & SE Britain, roadworks	733
London & SE Britain, roadworks	734
London & SE Britain, roadworks	735
London & SE Britain, roadworks	736
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London & SE Britain, roadworks	750

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.53 am Sun sets: 6.49 pm
Moon sets: 5.52 am Moon rises: 6.31 pm

Full moon tomorrow

London 6.49 pm to 6.55 am
Bristol 6.59 pm to 7.05 am
Edinburgh 7.01 pm to 7.06 am
Manchester 6.57 pm to 7.04 am
Penzance 7.11 pm to 7.16 am

FORECAST

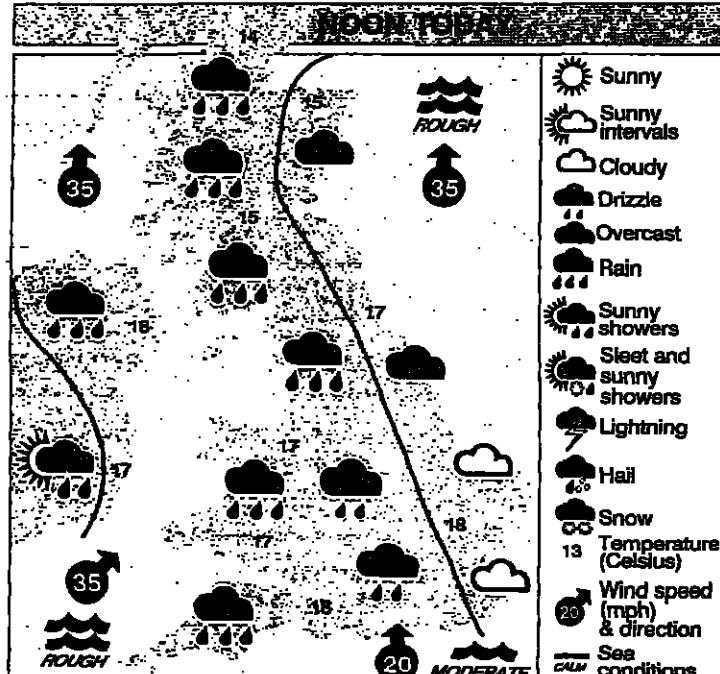
General: England and Wales should start dry, but rain reaching the west during the morning will spread quickly east across most remaining parts. The South East might stay dry until the evening. Clearer, showery conditions will follow. Becoming windy, perhaps gales over exposed areas. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have rain, heavy at times. Clearer conditions with blustery showers should reach Northern Ireland during the afternoon and spread quickly across Scotland later. Windy, with gales over exposed areas.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

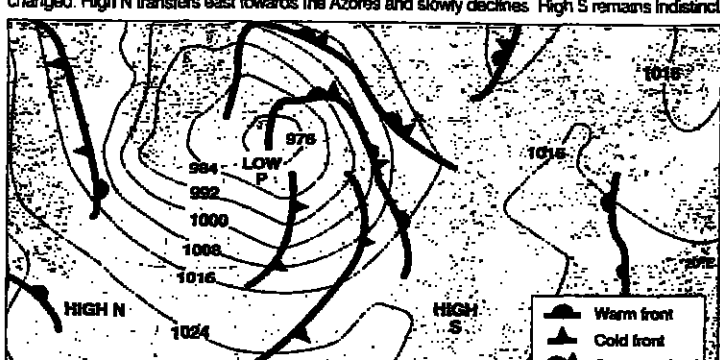
Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sea
London	15	SW	100	0.2	1
Edinburgh	12	W	100	0.1	1
Belfast	10	W	100	0.1	1
Birmingham	14	SW	100	0.1	1
Bristol	13	SW	100	0.1	1
Cardiff	12	SW	100	0.1	1
Exeter	14	SW	100	0.1	1
Gloucester	13	SW	100	0.1	1
Leeds	12	SW	100	0.1	1
Manchester	13	SW	100	0.1	1
Newcastle	12	SW	100	0.1	1
Nottingham	13	SW	100	0.1	1
Sheffield	12	SW	100	0.1	1
Southampton	14	SW	100	0.1	1
Stirling	11	W	100	0.1	1
Swansea	13	SW	100	0.1	1
Torquay	14	SW	100	0.1	1
Weymouth	13	SW	100	0.1	1
Widnes	12	SW	100	0.1	1
Worcester	13	SW	100	0.1	1
York	12	SW	100	0.1	1

FORECAST

SW, Max 18C (64F).
W Midlands, Channel Is, SW, NW, East Ang, Wales, Lakelands, SE: Rain, heavy at times. Brighter, scattered showers later. Wind strong S, turning SW. Max 17C (63F).
Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Mostly dry start. Rain, heavy at times, spreading from west. Becoming mainly dry by evening. Wind S, strong to gale, turning SW. Max 15C (59F).
SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Rain, heavy at times, spreading from west. Leaving blustery showers. Wind S, strong to gale, turning SW. Max 16C (61F).
Orkney, Shetland: Mostly dry at first. Rain later, becoming heavy. Wind S, strong to gale, turning SW. Max 14C (57F).
Outlook: Sunny intervals and blustery showers. Windy.



Changes to chart below from noon: low P remains almost stationary, its central pressure little changed. High N transfers east towards the Azores and slowly declines. High S remains indistinct.



HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT	Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02:11	7.2	12:51	7.2	Leeds	1:18	5.7	1:51	5.8
Aberdeen	01:17	8.6	10:25	10.8	Liverpool	10:17	8.6	10:25	10.8
Amble	01:17	8.6	10:25	10.8	Lowestoft	0:10	2.7	9:02	2.5
Belfast	01:17	8.6	10:25	10.8	Margate	1:05	4.8	11:43	5.0
Cardiff	0:08	12.5	6:32	13.0	Millport Haven	5:13	7.1	5:28	7.5
Devonport	4:47	5.4	5:05	5.7	Newquay	11:07	6.9	4:28	7.2
Dover	10:11	3.8	10:41	6.8	Portsmouth	4:36	3.8	5:14	4.3
Dunfermline	10:47	4.1	10:51	4.3	Swansea	5:51	2.1	6:12	2.3
Edinburgh	11:17	3.4	4:37	5.5	Tees	3:37	3.7	3:58	3.9
Exeter	10:47	4.1	11:12	4.3	Wexford	10:26	6.5	10:47	6.5
Gloucester	4:57	7.8	5:40	7.6	Widnes	9:49	4.8	10:28	4.8
Harlow	4:57	7.8	5:40	7.6	Widnes	9:49	4.8	10:28	4.8
Hull (Albert D)	4:57	7.8	5:40	7.6	Widnes	9:49	4.8	10:28	4.8
Ilfracombe	4:57	7.8	5:40	7.6	Widnes	9:49	4.8	10:28	4.8
King's Lynn	4:57	7.8	5:40	7.6	Widnes	9:49	4.8	10:28	4.8

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Far Isle, Shetland, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: St Margaret, Cornwall, 0.5in; highest sunshine: Angelsey, 8 hrs.

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - SEPTEMBER

Total number of lives saved so far this year:	567
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	2,882
Cost to RNLI per day:	£173,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£10
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210

Lifeboats
Rescue charity No. 209907

Lifeboats
Rescue charity No. 209907

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2

TODAY



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When the boss is the hired help

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Jane Eyre through Italian, French and American eyes

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Akram steps in for Ambrose at Northants

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26 1996

BT and News International to launch Internet service

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM and News International are to launch an Internet service called Springboard, whose content will range from News International's files, including *The Times*, to information about television programmes.

The 50-50 joint venture is scheduled for a January launch and will be sold on its own, although BT may eventually market it as a package with BT Internet, the Internet service it started in the spring.

Rupert Gavin, BT's director of multi-

dia services, would say only that the start-up costs would be a "sizeable sum", although it is understood to be less than £10 million.

Mr Gavin said that Springboard is designed for mass-market appeal and will be aimed at the 300,000 or so Britons who regularly use the Internet, the worldwide network of computers. BT believes that the number of Internet users will rise to as many as four million by 2000. "We want to get away from being a specialist service for nerds," he said.

Douglas Flynn, managing director of News International, said: "With News

International's expertise in publishing, multimedia and news gathering, and BT's experience in multimedia and communications, the new venture will establish a very attractive service for the UK market."

Springboard will initially draw content from *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and the *News of World*, and will work with partners to add weather, sport, the latest news, event listings and tickets, a reference library and other educational material. Other businesses within The News Corporation, which owns News International, might also provide services.

They might include content from HarperCollins, the book publisher, Fox Television, which produces *The X-Files*, and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International.

Delphi Creative, the News International company that designs Internet Web sites, will be absorbed into the BT-News International joint venture. Springboard is the latest in a series of multimedia ventures launched by News International. Others include Internet editions of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, and News EyeQ, the online, business-to-business service.

BT is expected this morning to announce that it has formed a partnership with Générale des Eaux, the French utilities group that is mounting a challenge to France Telecom in the phone market. A French partner would fill a glaring hole in BT's European strategy. In the past two years it has formed telecoms joint ventures in Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and The Netherlands as part of its strategy to make continental Europe, in effect, part of its home market. It has been looking for a French partner for over a year and is also seeking ways into the Swiss and Belgian markets.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3935.7	(+25.2)
Yield	3.95%	
FT-SE All share	1940.13	(+10.25)
Nikkei	21350.67	(+178.68)
Dow Jones	5870.33	(-3.70)
S&P Composite	685.90	(+0.29)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5%)
Long Bond	87 1/2%	(87%)
Yield	6.94%	(6.89%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Libor long gilt		(107%)
Future (Dec)	108	

STERLING

New York	1.5836*	(1.5855)
London	1.5645	(1.5580)
DM	2.3627	(2.3576)
FF	7.9965	(7.9781)
Sfr	1.9228	(1.9275)
Yen	172.58	(171.02)
S. Index	88.4	(88.1)

US DOLLAR

London	1.5123*	(1.5015)
DM	5.1184*	(5.0835)
Sfr	1.2353*	(1.2257)
Yen	110.38*	(109.07)
S. Index	97.0	(97.0)

Tokyo close Yen 109.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$22.30	(\$22.40)
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COAL

London close	\$382.45	(\$382.25)
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* denotes midday trading price

NatWest to shed £3.2bn in loans

By ROBERT MILLER

NATWEST, the UK's largest bank, is to shed £3.2 billion worth of company loans from its lending book and sell them on as a new type of security to other banks, building societies, pension funds and other international investors.

The move, which involves loans to 300 of the bank's larger and more creditworthy company customers, could pave the way for rival banks and City institutions to follow suit. This, in turn, could create a new market of tradeable corporate loan notes or securities worth up to £32 billion.

In the past NatWest has been criticised for failing to trim its corporate lending book, worth around £9.6 billion, fast enough, even though it has been cut by around £8



Derek Wanless, NatWest chief executive, said there had been no decision on what to do with the extra capital and did not rule out acquisitions.

Pru prepares for battle with banks

PRUDENTIAL, Britain's biggest life insurer, is taking on the banks. From October 1, the company will offer deposit accounts and mortgages. With the guarantee that savings rates for 1996 and 1997 will be higher than the average rates offered by high street banks and building societies, the Pru has spent £70 million to launch Prudential Banking.

Prudential, which pays out £1 billion a year in maturing policies, of which 70 per cent stays in building societies for a year after, aims primarily to attract its existing customers.

billion since 1991. Intense competition in the corporate lending market has pushed down interest rates and therefore the returns that banks can expect to earn from such business.

NatWest declined to identify individual companies among the 300. It is understood, however, that some of its largest borrowers, such as Eurotunnel, Queens Moat Houses and Brent Walker, with collective debts worth billions, are not included.

By creating a new company, Rose (Repeat Offering, Securitisation Entity) Funding Group, to buy NatWest's cor-

Britain 'to top Euro economy league'

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN WASHINGTON

BRITAIN is likely to have the most successful economy in Europe for the fourth year running in 1997, according to the International Monetary Fund. Its annual assessment of global economic prospects, published yesterday, says that Britain will enjoy a rapid economic growth rate, see a further significant decline in unemployment and show no sign of any serious inflationary problems.

The IMF's *World Economic Outlook*, a document usually filled with stern words of warning against inflation and government improvidence, also conveys a generally encouraging message for most other countries, with the partial exception of Germany and France.

Apart from the standard call for more flexible markets in Japan and Europe, the Fund's main suggestion for policy changes is an unexpected call for Germany to be ready, if necessary, to make further reductions in interest rates. Despite its institutional bias towards austerity, the IMF believes that weak growth and unemployment now pose a

bigger threat than inflation to Germany and the rest of continental Europe. In an unusually open hint to the Bundesbank, the IMF adds: "It is still too early to conclude that the recent round of interest rate reductions in Germany has fully run its course."

The IMF says that the world economy will continue its

CBI urges prudent Budget

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Confederation of British Industry urged the Chancellor yesterday to bring forward a "prudent" Budget to ensure that public borrowing is brought back to a sustainable long-term path.

"This would leave only 'very limited' scope for tax cuts of £1 billion at most," the CBI said.

The employers' organisation cautioned against "radical" action and said the Government's real spending target should be cut by £2 billion.

steady non-inflationary expansion, with the growth of world output accelerating from 3.5 per cent in 1995 to 3.8 per cent this year and 4.1 per cent in 1997. But this growth should become better balanced among the major regions, with the US and Asian developing countries slowing slightly, while Europe, Japan, Latin America and Africa all

accelerate. Russia should enjoy positive economic growth next year for the first time this decade.

Britain is forecast to grow by 3 per cent in 1997, putting it well ahead of the rest of Europe, and second only to Canada among the G7 countries. And while growth for Britain this year is put at only 2.2 per cent, this is still well

ahead of all the G7 countries apart from Japan and the US. The IMF also expects inflation in Britain to decline to 2.4 per cent, from 2.7 per cent, this year. Unusually, it does not seem to share the view of the Bank of England that Britain's interest rates are too low.

Michael Moussa, the IMF's chief economist, said that "British monetary policy is currently appropriate". Looking ahead to 1997, he added that there would need to be only a "modest" firming of interest rates to stay within the Government's inflation target. He said there was no reason to expect sharply higher interest rates in either Britain or America, despite robust growth of demand and declining unemployment.

Ford cuts 1,000 jobs in drive to compete

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

FORD is cutting 1,000 jobs from its British workforce as the company battles to compete with increasingly efficient foreign plants.

The company promised that the cuts, scheduled for completion by the end of the year, would be achieved through a programme of voluntary redundancies and early retirements. Workers called to plant meetings yesterday were told that the cutbacks would be across the board, with both white-collar staff and assembly workers asked to leave.

The slimming down is part of a global drive for greater efficiency, ordered by Alex Trotman, Ford's British-born worldwide chairman. The company is trying to bring its main British plants at Dagenham, Essex, and Halewood on Merseyside, into line with its most efficient factories in Belgium and Spain.

Latest figures from the Economist Intelligence Unit show that Ford's operations at Valencia are the company's most efficient. But they still lag behind Nissan in Washington, Tyne and Wear, and Honda in Swindon, Wiltshire.

Ford has 30,000 people in factories across several regions. As well as Dagenham and Halewood, the company has main sites in Southampton, Bridgend and Swansea.

A spokesman said: "It is part of the on-going drive for world-class efficiency levels. It is very important that all our plants can compete with other plants worldwide."

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London

Florence

PowerGen ends use of 'dirty fuel'

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

POWERGEN is to abandon oil, the controversial cheap fuel from Venezuela, with the closure of the last power station, near Chester.

In March, the generator closed Richborough power station in Kent, another oil-fired plant adapted to burn oil.

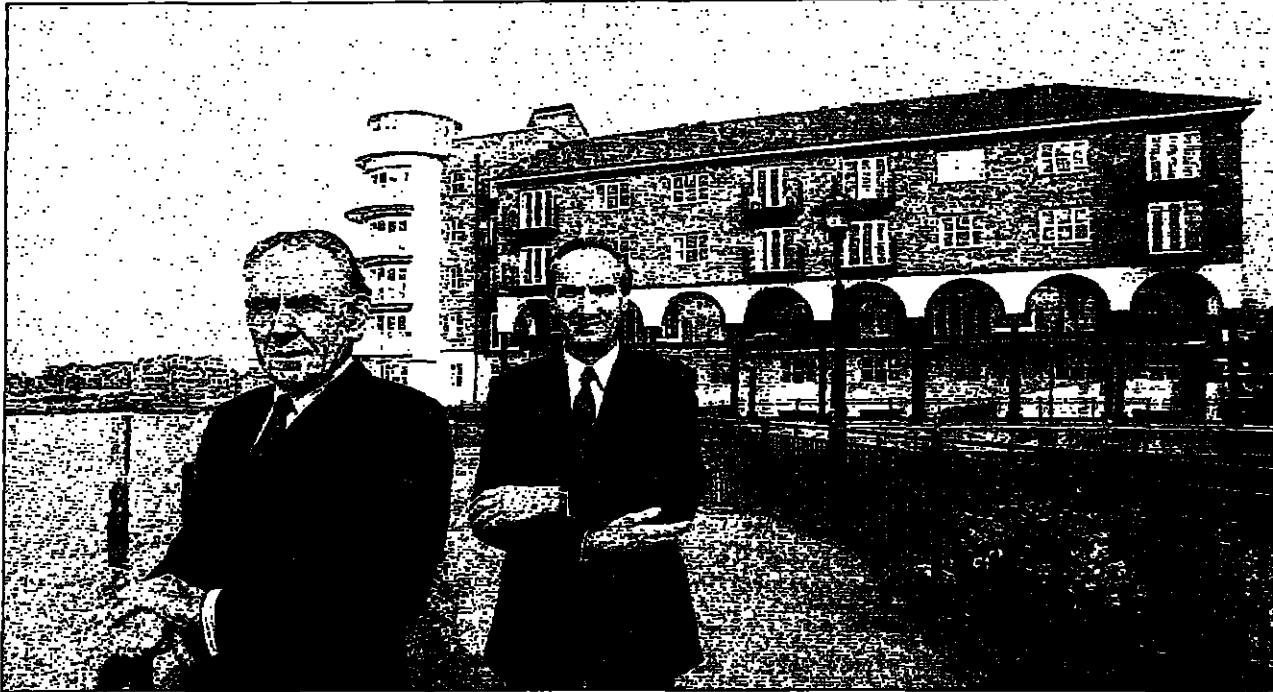
A spokesman said that PowerGen's use of oil — dubbed "the world's dirtiest fuel" — had been undertaken as a long-term experiment, but there were now no plans to burn it. The move comes after criticism by environmentalists and legal action alleging damage from fuel oil.

PowerGen is to maintain capacity with the re-opening of a coal-fired unit at Fiddler's Ferry power station, near Warrington.

PowerGen has settled claims from car companies alleging paint erosion from the bitumen-based fuel. It faces claims from farmers in Kent alleging crop damage.

National Power was recently stopped from building a jetty at Milford Haven to import oil, but the generator is still keen to import the fuel.

It will close next March, at the end of a five-year contract for the fuel, with the loss of 41 jobs.



Sir Laurie Barratt, left, and Frank Eaton at Princes Riverside, Barratt's development at Rotherhithe, London

Institutions to get bulk of AEA shares in sell-off

By PAUL DURMAN

PRIVATE investors will receive only about a fifth of the shares they applied for in AEA Technology, the nuclear decommissioning and waste management group and the Government's last privatisation before the general election.

Investors applying through their stockbrokers made offers for £156 million of shares, or seven times the number originally reserved for them. Although the Government's advisers increased the size of the "intermediaries' offer", from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent of the total shares available, this still meant applications from private investors

had to be scaled back heavily. On average, private investors will receive 22 per cent of what they applied for. However, those who applied through large stockbrokers may receive less since large applications were capped at £7.5 million.

Ray Williams, an associate at Brewin Dolphin, the private client stockbroker, said: "A lot of our clients are not satisfied with what they've been allocated. Some of the holdings are fairly tiny. It will make it a very interesting after-market."

First dealings in the shares of AEA Technology will take place this morning, and they are thought likely to move quickly to a premium. J.

Henry Schroder, the merchant bank, priced the shares at 280p — at the top of the range that was only increased on Monday, just hours before the deadline for brokers' applications. The price values AEA Technology at £224 million.

Michael Read, head of private clients at Greig Middleton, the stockbroker, was irritated that the Government had invoked its right to increase the price of the shares at such a late stage, which left the firm no time to consult its clients. He said: "To change the price like that at the last minute shows a complete lack of understanding about the way the retail market works."

The flotation was heavily backed by AEA Technology's 3,300 staff, who will jointly receive nearly £5 million of shares, 2.2 per cent of the total. All but one of them took up their right to £160 of free shares, and 2,300 invested the maximum amount to take up their full £1,510 entitlement.

Peter Watson, AEA's chief executive, said that 2,200 staff had agreed to invest an average of £95 a month into a save-as-you-earn share scheme. This was the equivalent of £11 million to £12 million over the next few years, he added. The bulk of AEA's shares will go to institutional investors who took part in the placing.

Tempus, page 28

Barratt says rivals paid too much for land banks

By PAUL DURMAN

SIR LAWRIE BARRATT, chairman of Barratt Developments, yesterday accused other housebuilders of overpaying for companies they have bought for their holdings of land.

Sir Lawrie said that 23 housebuilders have been taken over in the last three years at prices that range from 15 to 85 per cent in excess of the stated value of their assets. He said Persimmon had paid £19 million too much for Ideal Homes, bought for £178 million in February.

If Persimmon want to throw away £19 million, there's nothing anyone can do about it," Sir Lawrie said. He also welcomed Tarmac's departure from housebuilding, since it was "notorious" for overpaying for land.

Barratt was reporting a 10.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £52.1 million for the year to June 30. Earnings rose 17 per cent to 17.8p a share.

The company completed 7,025 house sales, a 6 per cent improvement on the previous year. The average price also increased 6 per cent to £83,800. Group turnover increased 10 per cent to £634 million.

Although Barratt recently raised £90 million to expand its landbank, Frank Eaton, chief executive, said the company has retained tight control of spending. Land costs remained at 21.8 per cent of projected selling costs. Barratt has increased its land stocks to 20,200 plots. It ended the year with cash of £42 million.

Barratt plans to pay a final dividend of 5.5p on November 22, lifting the total payout 10 per cent to 8.25p a share.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

SFO chief calls for reform over trials

GEORGE STAPLE, Director of the Serious Fraud Office, yesterday called for changes to the way in which large and complex financial trials are conducted. In his first public comment since the collapse of the second Maxwell trial last week, Mr Staple told a London conference on combating financial crime that the system had become "emasculated". He said that some cases were so complex that it was impossible to reduce them to a point at which the whole indictment against the defendants could be tried in one trial, so these would be split into a series of trials. However, after last week's Maxwell ruling, in which the judge said that a second trial should be unusual, it was "unlikely" that second trials would ever take place. Mr Staple said.

German sick pay battle

A WAVE of German companies have followed Daimler-Benz by announcing cuts in sick pay, turning up the heat in a battle over liberalising restrictive work rules. Companies from BASF to Bayerische Vereinsbank and Mannesmann are to implement the law, beginning on October 1, that cuts sick pay from 100 per cent of normal wages to 80 per cent. Daimler's works council and unions were outraged. Officials said workers would refuse to work overtime and weekend shifts.

Gilts auction success

THE latest British gilts auction went well yesterday, with bids totalling 1.73 times the amount on offer. The sale of £3 billion 8 per cent ultra-long gilts due to mature in 2021 was mostly taken up by domestic pension funds and insurance companies, which need very long-dated bonds to match their liabilities. However, traders noted that gilts are still underperforming European bonds, which are profiting from a growing view that European monetary union will take place without Britain.

Alexon signals payouts

ALEXON, the fashion retailer rescued from near-collapse three years ago, has signalled a return to the dividend list after making profits of £3.03 million (£141,000) for the six months to July 27. Although no payout is proposed at the half-year, Alexon said that it intends to pay £3.4 million next March to preference shareholders, equivalent to 16.7p a share. Payments on ordinary shares are expected in the next half-year. Earnings per share of 4.16p compare with a 0.86p loss last year.

Circle buying film-maker

CIRCLE COMMUNICATIONS, the film and television rights owner, is acquiring Oxford Scientific Films, the wildlife film specialist, for £3.85 million. The deal expands Circle's wildlife films division, and marks the company's first acquisition since joining the Alternative Investment Market in July. OSF made pre-tax profits of £301,000 in 1995, on sales of £3.9 million. Circle's shares, which joined AIM at 170p, were unchanged at 180p yesterday.

Price Waterhouse pays

PRICE WATERHOUSE has agreed to pay £20 million in settlement of its long-running legal dispute with Ferruzzi, the Italian foods-to-chemicals group. The firm's practice in Italy was being sued for about £671 million for alleged negligence in its auditing of Ferruzzi, now known as Compagnie, and its main subsidiary, Montedison. PW admits no liability in making the proposed settlement, which is due to be put to shareholders in November.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.08	1.92
Austria Sch	17.55	16.05
Belgium Fr	51.44	47.14
Canada \$	2.342	2.082
Cyprus Cyp£	0.755	0.700
Denmark Kr	9.81	8.81
Finland Mk£	7.64	6.98
France Fr	8.37	7.72
Germany DM	2.51	2.30
Greece Dr	387	382
Hong Kong \$	12.73	11.73
Ireland £	1.15	1.02
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh£	5.24	4.66
Italy Lire	2479	2224
Japan Yen	185.70	168.70
Malta	0.802	0.547
Netherlands Gld	2.788	2.559
New Zealand \$	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.61	9.81
Portugal Esc£ ..	251.00	232.50
S Africa Rd	7.64	6.94
Spain Pes	204.50	191.50
Sweden Kr	10.89	10.09
Switzerland Fr ..	2.06	1.88
Turkey Lira	143850	132850
USA \$	1.882	1.532

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

GTech 'defrauded over US lottery bid'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

A FORMER executive of GTech, the American company involved in the British lottery, paid high consultancy fees to gain access to American state legislatures and had a double-hire agreement with his company and the consultancy firm that was enriched, Mr Smith paid an "inflated"

sum to the consultants, Steven Dandrea and Joseph LaPorta of the Benchmark Group, and then later accepted money from them. At the time, GTech was bidding for work from the New Jersey state lottery. Mr LaPorta had a cousin who was the top aide to Jim Florio, the state's governor, and a high-level meeting was arranged.

Thomas Roth, who is representing Mr Dandrea, said that although it might sound cynical, lottery companies such as GTech were "not looking for hours spent... and they're not looking for effort. They are looking for access." In early arguments, the defence suggested that the \$739,047 paid to Benchmark was justified by the ultimate goal of securing the business from New Jersey.

The hearing at a federal court in Newark, New Jersey, is expected to run for a month. Guy Snowden, co-chairman of GTech, who is in dispute with Richard Branson over allegations that he offered Mr Branson a bribe to withdraw his bid to run the British lottery, could be called to give evidence.

The case continues.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

GET £15 WORTH OF AT&T CALLS FREE

Plus make big savings on international and UK long-distance calls when you dial 143

■ The Times offers readers an exclusive opportunity to get FREE CALLS WORTH £15 from AT&T.

■ To get you started, a special discount card, worth £5 in free calls, was inserted in Monday's paper. Keep the card and collect 10 of the AT&T £1 tokens which appear in The Times and The Sunday Times to qualify for free calls worth £15.

■ AT&T's network can be accessed from most modern, residential phone lines (excluding cable). Use it to make big savings on international and long-distance calls. You can save as much as 40% on calls to America.

HOW TO JOIN THE AT&T CALLING SERVICE

■ Readers of The Times must collect eight Times tokens and the two tokens in The Sunday Times next Sunday, September 29. Readers of The Sunday Times who have Token One from last Sunday's paper must collect seven tokens from The Times and the two tokens in The Sunday Times next week. The 10 tokens should be sent to AT&T by October 31, 1996, with an application form and the £5 discount card inserted in Monday's paper.

■ Readers who do not collect 10 tokens can still apply to register with AT&T and get free calls worth £5 using the discount card. Call 0800 064 2211 between 7am and 11pm any day until October 31, 1996, quoting reference 09-NP-TM-A-1-28.

WHAT THE AT&T CALLING SERVICE OFFERS
If you regularly spend more than £90 a quarter on your telephone bill, and you are not a cable telephone customer, you can make big savings with the AT&T Calling Service.

MAKING A WORLDWIDE CONNECTION

To join the AT&T Calling Service all you need is a BT line in your home. Once you are connected, all you need



If there was no AT&T discount card in your paper on Monday, call 0171 481 3355 between 9.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday to request one.

to do is dial 143, followed by the number. You will automatically access the AT&T network and be able to take advantage of AT&T's competitive rates. Examples of AT&T CountryCall costs compared with the cost of BT basic rate calls include —

■ a five-minute weekday-evening call to America with the CallAmerica plan: AT&T 84p, BT £1.41.

■ a ten-minute weekend call to Australia with the Call Australia/NZ plan: AT&T £3.44, BT £4.41.

These prices are effective from October 8, 1996, and include Vat.

The AT&T price includes a 3.53p call connection charge. AT&T has a quarterly membership fee of £3.99 for CountryCall plans and £5.99 for CallWorld.

The full terms and conditions of this offer appeared on Monday.



CHANGING TIMES

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Clarke plan
on more
laundrying

REVENUE
Chancellor
today said
one in five
households
could not
afford to
pay the
cost of
the new
tax. The
Treasury
said it was
not aware
of any
plans to
reduce the
tax. Mr
Clarke
said the
tax was
a "small
contribution
to the
cost of
running
the country".

Grand Merit
of Pearle for

GRAND MERIT
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□ Questions over NatWest's innovatory debt sale □ Company chiefs in the firing line □ Brent Walker's £6 million deadline

A Rose by any other name

□ THE notion of wrapping debt up into a neat bundle and selling it off to blue-chip institutions looking for steady if unexciting returns is not a new one. But the innovatory nature of the NatWest's debt sale raises the obvious question of why no bank in Europe has done anything quite like it before.

It also raises any number of other pertinent questions, most of which, the NatWest freely concedes, must remain unanswered at this early stage. Essentially, the bank is taking about a third of its corporate debt off the balance sheet by finding other holders willing to assume a degree of the risk. This should free capital to be used on other ventures which offer rather better returns.

The first question is the views of those debtors, who must be under the impression they had formed a relationship with the bank, and not with whoever their loans are passed on to. A similar securitisation of mortgage debt a few years back caused no end of upset, after all.

NatWest insists that those relationships will continue unchanged, which is not entirely candid: the loans are being shifted elsewhere because the margins in corporate lending, as the bank concedes, are insufficient to make such business worthwhile. So much for relat-

ionship banking; such custom as that, as the old song puts it, the banks can get any day.

The ultimate holders of the special purpose vehicles, or Re-peat Offering Securitisation Entities (ROSEs), will presumably pay a discount to the loans' face value. This will be a small one because the debts, we are assured, are culled from the safer end of the corporate loan book.

Pass over the question whether any bank, in the light of recent history, is able to identify a safe loan from one about to disappear down a Eurotunnel-sized hole. Those ultimate holders will assume some risk, and want some matching rights as creditors. Suppose one of those copper-bottomed corporate borrowers, at a later date, goes under. Rather than dealing with the one bank, any future financial reconstruction will have to heed the views of any number of ROSE holders.

NatWest's loan book will also be skewed. Plain common sense suggests that if you cream off the safest third, the remaining two thirds carries a higher risk. Not so, says the bank: why not? And what do the credit rating agen-

cies have to say about that remaining debt?

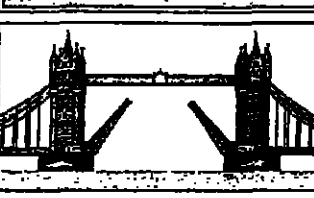
Then there is the matter of just what NatWest, whose loan-to-asset ratios are already more than acceptable, wants to do with the capital freed. Only a month ago, the bank was using surplus funds to buy back its shares. Perhaps it has since identified some grand new investment. The danger is that NatWest will end up swapping a low-risk, low return asset for a high-risk venture of unquantified returns. We have been there before, and the lesson learned from Third World debt, Crockford et al is that caution has its attractions.

Go-going, going...

□ AT least two chief executives of middle-ranking British companies live in fear of losing their jobs, but no one is giving terribly good odds on the survival of Alan Bowkett at Berisford and Peter Aikens at Matthew Clark.

The parallels between the two

PENNINGTON



are even stronger, though. In both, the institutions are concerned that what was reported to shareholders as a limited if serious problem may be a symptom of a deeper malaise. They may want blood, but first they want more information.

First, Matthew Clark. The omens for Mr Aikens are, they now say, rosier even if the shares are still only worth half what they were a fortnight ago when the company drew attention to the damage being done by alcopops. The market thinks the real mistake is weak spending on marketing, which for branded businesses provides a short-term boost at the expense of longer-term profitability. One institution has called for his head, but a

bullish trading statement since from Bass, perpetrator of the market leader in alcopops, Hooper's Hooch, may have buttressed his position. Odds on his survival: maybe 40 per cent.

Berisford's own warning drew attention to a strike, which can perhaps happen to anyone these days, and a hitherto undetected weakness in the American restaurant market — undetected, that is, by the big restaurant chains who buy Berisford's fast-food kit. The institutions would like to know what really is wrong, and Mr Bowkett has not left too many friends behind in the wake of his meteoric rise to this point. Survival odds: no better than 20 per cent.

The closest parallel between Clark and Berisford, though, is that both have been heavily promoted for their growth prospects, which have been fuelled by bundles of City cash. These are precisely the sort of businesses that came nastily unstuck in the late 1980s, in the wake of the last market crash. Bull markets are nervous places, witness both companies' share plunges, and they are unforgiving of those

who fall behind. The bosses of several other go-go concerns will be watching developments at the two with interest.

Russian roulette

□ THE new Russia is a tough place to do business, and some has clearly rubbed off on George Walker, if the former boxer ever needed another injection of toughness. There was much puzzlement on Tuesday when he threatened, on being awarded more than £6 million by a French court, to put Brent Walker into receivership if the money was not paid.

This would have forced an orderly sale of the remaining parts of his former empire, the Pubmaster chain and the William Hill betting shops. The problem was that the banks were already staging an orderly asset sale. They had no hope of getting all of their £1.4 billion of debt back — the two between them are probably not worth half that — but most had been written off anyway. The arrival of a receiver

to carry out the same task would not benefit Mr Walker. On receivership he would merely be just another unsecured creditor, owed £6 million and with no chance of getting it back.

Yesterday Mr Walker gave the banks a week to put this sum into escrow pending legal appeals, or he would pull the rug. But it seems that those asset sales are not the only benefit locked away within Brent Walker: there are £200 million of tax losses available to the banks. These disappear, it is argued, on receivership. £6 million is a relatively paltry sum, by comparison. It might just be in the interest of the banks, who threw Mr Walker out of the company he created five years ago, to pay up. Nice tax loss you've got here, Guv. Wouldn't want anything to happen to it.

Gloom and boom

□ A FUTUROLOGIST consultancy, Market Dynamics, has invented a new category to go with dinkies, yuppies and all the other social tribes. Despite the general economic well-being half of us, apparently, fear for our financial future, and two fifths worry about crime. The trend is strongest among those born in the baby-boom years just after the War. Those baby-boomers are now baby-gloomers.

Ibstock issues warning after first-half fall

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A WEAK bricks market and poor pulp prices were held up as major problems for Ibstock when it gave warning that profits this year would not match last year's.

Ibstock, the United Kingdom's second-biggest bricks company after Hanson, delivered its warning after reporting an 82 per cent slump in first-half pre-tax profits to £2.4 million.

The company said that forestry, which in the first six months fell into a £1.3 million loss from a comparable profit of £6 million, was unlikely to recover its loss. The bricks business, meanwhile, faced improving but difficult markets. Ibstock said that pre-tax profits for the full year would be "significantly" lower than last year's £16.7 million.

Although signs of life are being reported in house-building, Sir Colin Hope, Ibstock's chairman, said that UK brick despatches this year were forecast to be the lowest on record. He said the general

outlook was improving but "only gradually, and from a low base".

In the first half, Ibstock was hit by low demand in UK bricks and harsh weather in the US, leading to the temporary halting early this year of brick production. Results were also hit by highly volatile pulp prices. The company said pulp prices over the past year had soared to \$1,000 per tonne but had then slumped to \$400 per tonne. Sales fell 38 per cent to £22 million.

The company bought Redland's brick division earlier this year and is looking to make annual cost savings of £6 million from fusing the businesses. It said that it was on target to realise these savings by next year, having bought the operation in July. So far, three factories have been closed.

Ibstock froze its interim dividend at 0.75p a share, payable on December 2.

Times, page 28

Clarke plea on money laundering

BY OLIVER AUGUST

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, will urge Commonwealth finance ministers today at their annual conference in Bermuda to adopt a tough new code to fight money laundering, said to be the world's third-largest industry. The Treasury has designed an "anti-money laundering tool kit" for developing countries. It includes a comprehensive list of measures to keep out or detect the proceeds from criminal activities.

The kit is based on successful measures adopted in the Treasury's fight to keep drug money out of Britain. It details how governments can make laws against different forms of money-laundering and techniques for investigating illegal cash flows.

Mr Clarke will ask finance ministers to follow the example of the Cayman Islands which established a new Monetary Authority this week.

Oriental to go for £14m flotation

BY FRASER NELSON

ORIENTAL Restaurant Group is taking its four-strong chain of Chinese and Thai eateries to the stock market via a flotation valuing the company at £14.7 million. Hoek Ann Chua, an accountant who is co-founder and managing director, will be made a paper millionaire by the placing, which values his 11.2 per cent stake at £1.64 million.

The company is raising £4 million from the floor to double the number of restaurants in two years and expand its wholesale activities.

In the year to March 31, Oriental made profits of £646,000 before tax, on sales of £4.48 million. This left earnings of 8.2p per share.

Greig Middleton has placed 2.6 million shares with institutions at 154p each. They begin trading next Thursday.

City diary, page 29

GrandMet disposes of Pearle for £140m

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the food and drinks conglomerate, has sold Pearle, the American eye care business earmarked for disposal since 1993 (George Siviloff writes).

Cole National Corporation, one of the big players in the US eye care market, is to pay £140 million for Pearle, which has 183 outlets in Europe and a further 692 in North America and the Caribbean.

Cole operates more than 1,000 optical stores under the names Sears Optical, Montgomery Ward Vision Centre, BJ's Optical and Target Optical. It is setting Pearle for

its book value, including £64 million for the Pearle brand. Grand Met has written off £265 million of goodwill on the Pearle business over the years. Pearle had sales of £232 million in the year to September 30, 1995, generating operating profits of £10 million.

John McGrath, Grand Met chief executive, said: "Pearle does not fit our strategy of focusing on market-leading food and drink businesses. Its disposal is consistent with our drive to improve on our return on invested capital and release cash from areas where we cannot earn satisfactory

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Wedded to his work

PETER Middleton, who was partying at home until 11.30 on Monday night after his wedding in Fulham, has postponed his honeymoon to ensure he does not miss a quarterly staff meeting at Salomon Brothers.

Instead, the former Lloyd's chief executive will take a long weekend in October and whisk his bride, Anita, to Paris on her first visit to the romantic city.

David Potter, chairman and chief executive of Guinness Mahon, was among the crowd that gathered to admire Middleton in his wedding togs. Although the suit was old, Middleton assures me that the red tie was new. He bought it on his way through Frankfurt airport last Saturday, after a tour of Salomon Brothers' new offices in Germany.

Fat-cat caution

MICHAEL Paterson, co-founder of the Oriental Restaurant Group, was boasting yesterday that he receives only £24,000 a year as finance director. The Oxford graduate and former stockbroker, who is set to float the company at a value of £14.7 million, said he would not accept a penny more. Lunching at Imperial City, 48-year-old Paterson said: "People do take high salaries for non-risk jobs in the City and I think it's wrong. Somebody else could do my job if they were a qualified accountant." He added, however, that it was quite all right to maintain a 9.32 per cent stake in the company, which will be worth £1.37 million on flotation.



"Let's say we are broadly in line with expectations"

Written off

A thief found rich pickings from Flemings, from which 200 rollerball pens bearing the "Fleming Select" pension scheme name have been stolen. The investment house is offering a £50 reward after the pens went from a van parked in a west London street before a conference for company pension-scheme managers. "It was very upsetting," says Philip Beale, a Flemings director, who says that each pen cost £2 to replace.

Trump card

While Diana, Princess of Wales, is fund-raising across the Atlantic, she and Maria Maples may wish to find a quiet corner in Manhattan and ponder credit cards. The Princess had her Harvey Nichols store card refused, and Donald Trump's wife has now had a similar experience at her hairdresser's, according to US reports. Maria was thought to be "double dipping" because her secretary was using her Visa card at the same time, to order household goods for her boss.

Professor Patrick Minford, adviser to the Chancellor, received an apology last night from hosts of a dinner he addressed. Tim Lewis, planning manager at RBS Advanta, regretted sending invitations to hear "Sir" Patrick Minford at the launch of the RBS Advanta Gold Card. "I am profoundly apologetic, but believe it will only be a matter of time," he said sulkily.

MORAG PRESTON

Benefits abound when the boss is just the hired help

Ian Brodie on the trend for companies to appoint temps in top jobs

Charlie Farrell is an executive temp. With 30 years of experience in management, he answered the call from a troubled furniture manufacturer in California for an interim chief executive officer. He saved the company, Tropicane Furniture, by reducing its bloated inventory, improving delivery times and making a quarter of the employees redundant. Then he organised his own departure by finding a permanent chief executive to take his place. The board was so impressed that they asked him to stay on as part-time chairman.

Temporary work is no longer just for typists. Mr Farrell is part of a burgeoning trend in the US and, increasingly, in Europe. Companies are turning to highly paid, up-market temps with specialist skills to help them out of a hole or to take on a particular project.

The search for brains to rent for a limited time has spawned a thriving new category of temping agencies. They employ recruiters who must be highly knowledgeable about the nuances of finding exactly the right corporate stop-gap, often in a hurry. Putting a wanted advertisement in a shop window or the local paper is not the answer: any more. In this exalted realm, a likely prospect often needs to be wooed over lunch with promises of a growing resume of top-notch jobs, albeit brief.

A striking example of a company turning to an outside executive for temporary help was last week's appointment by PepsiCo Inc. of Karl von der Heyden to be chief financial officer and vice-chairman for a year. A former chief of RJR Nabisco, his main roles at Pepsi will be to help to chart a strategy in the wake of several operational problems and to find a "world-class" chief financial officer to succeed him. Wall Street approved the idea. The company's shares promptly jumped 50 cents to \$29.50.

In Mr Farrell's case, he is 66 and would probably be considered obsolete in a traditional career structure. As a temp-in-charge, it took him 30 months to turn Tropicane around, but since then he has served as trouble-shooter at two other companies, each worth \$50 million, that were on the brink of foreclosure. He claims to have an intuitive sense of sizing up a problem and then deciding how to modernise operations, sales, marketing and finance. He said: "It's called crisis management, and when the crisis is over I leave."

Paul Dintie, an Australian in his thirties, owns an executive temping agency in Washington that after three years employs 17 people. He is currently looking for an interim executive to oversee the retooling and development of a corporation during a planned growth spurt. The assignment will be for three to six months. Mr Dintie must decide if any of the freelance executives on his books fit the bill or whether his



Sales director Roy Smith, redundant and desperate, took to the road near Cheltenham before finding new work

researchers should try to uncover a new candidate.

The idea of executive temping first occurred to Mr Dintie when he was working in the City of London for a firm of financial advisers. One day he was sent out as a consultant to a company handling insurance, a subject about which he knew nothing. He became convinced consultants were over-rated and that their role could be performed more effectively and cheaper in the short term by implementers with the right hands-on experience.

Mr Dintie described a changing employment market at the top. "The gold watch club is dead. Corporations are into downsizing and are no longer prepared to keep masses of people on the payroll for ever."

Expanding companies, opting for flexibility, now seek interim managers and project leaders for specific tasks. The phenomenon cuts across many industries, but is especially prevalent in chemicals, plastics, finance, telecommunications, law firms, retailing and healthcare.

The shift from lifetime service with one company to a career punctuated by rapidly changing jobs is chronicled in *The Portable Executive* by John Thompson, a pioneer of interim management and chairman of Incor Inc., a leading temp agency. He is a proponent of executives building their own job security by moving from corporate dependency to self-direction.

He found that layoffs at America's top companies had reached an average of 2,600 a day, creating far more qualified managers and executives

than permanent openings for them to fill. Yet in a flourishing economy the very corporations that were cutting back now have a rising demand for managerial skills on an as-needed basis.

Mr Thompson forecasts an era of far greater mobility among executives as they move from one assignment to the next. He has observed that many benefit from their new-found professional independence and enjoy greater levels of personal satisfaction. They are often far better off financially. He admits, though, that some find it nerve-racking to be worrying all the time about their next assignment.

In addition to finding executives, the expanding temporary placement firms also fill thousands of specialist professional slots. Interim Services, a big staffing company in Florida, provides doctors for clinics at 160 General Motors factories around the US. A California company, On Assignment Inc., has nearly 50 branches supplying chemists, biologists and other scientists for laboratory jobs lasting two weeks to four months. As an example, a pharmaceutical company recently took on a team of temps to shepherd a new prescription drug through the laborious approval process required by the US Food and Drug Administration.

As with Mr Farrell, outstanding temps are often taken on the staff. In the highest executive categories, about a third get offers. Annual receipts from temping have reached close to \$40 billion a year in the US. The number of

Americans working as temps on any given day exceeded two million for the first time last year. Of these, 120,000, or 6 per cent, were in the professional category, up from 2.5 per cent five years ago. Demand continues to grow. Unemployment has dropped to 5 per cent, a seven-year low, making the search for skilled staff increasingly difficult. Ray Marcy, chief executive of Interim Services, reckons there will be five million temps in the US by 2000, with Europe following suit. He said: "We've already seen tremendous changes. A few years ago we thought of temps as holiday replacements or people between jobs. Now companies are paying a premium to utilise the skills of highly-qualified people, but only when necessary."

Top-drawer temping is promoted by the agencies as offering an enhanced lifestyle and greater flexibility than a regular nine-to-five grind. It enables young mothers with law degrees to work 25 hours a week and still be home in time to meet their children off the school bus. It allows physicians in their fifties to work eight months a year and spend the other four sailing.

There is a dark side to this rosy picture. Would-be temps need to seek out reputable agencies that offer pension rights and health coverage. Even then, the employees often pay a far greater contribution themselves than in staff jobs where employers pick up a large share of the tab. Indeed, the main reason why so many firms are turning to high-grade temps for help is that they get the job done quickly with no recurring, hefty payroll costs.

British Gas defends the quality of a phone service under pressure

From Mr Roger Wood
Sir, We strongly disagree with the comment made in your newspaper (*The Times*, September 24), attributed to Ian Powe, that our telephone system has collapsed. This may have caused unnecessary distress to our customers.

Every day, the majority of customer calls are being answered at each of our Area Service Centres. We take around 14 million calls from our customers every year and we aim to answer each one within a reasonable time, mostly within 30 seconds. On the day your columnist contacted us (Monday, September 23) we answered over 73,000 telephone inquiries from our customers and our engineers carried out over 40,000 jobs.

While we acknowledge we are falling short of the telephone answering target we set ourselves, we are confident that the situation will improve soon. We apologise to any customers who have experienced difficulties in contacting us and would reassure them that we are doing everything possible. We have started to recruit additional staff to help with the difficulties we are experiencing, and we are making substantial investments in our communications systems, both between our offices and our engineers.

As a result, we are determined that we will rapidly return to the high standards of telephone answering which we have set ourselves, and which our customers expect of us.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER WOOD,
Managing Director,
British Gas,
30 The Causeway,
Staines, Middlesex.

All lines of communication exhausted

From Mr Richard Fortin
Sir, The British Gas switchboard is clearly overwhelmed by calls, presumably from customers with problems that they cannot solve through the normal channels. The impression given is of an organisation in total chaos, if not near to collapse.

I have been trying to get through to British Gas Services on and off all week on 0345 365100 to ask why they keep sending me different requests for payment for apparently different service contracts when I have already paid them. The number is constantly engaged.

I have already tried to

phone the emergency breakdown number under the contract — 0645 500400 but the number holds you in a queue for up to half an hour.

I have tried to phone the number given in the phone book for customer calls from the Putney area — 0181 640 3311 — but that holds you in a queue and then cuts you off. The same thing happened when I asked the Adelphi switchboard to put me through to your office.

What do I do next? I feel like someone in a maze from which there is no exit.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FORTIN,
5 Deatry Road,
Putney SW15.

On your Marks for a prawn mayo

From Mr R. L. Galkoff
Sir, How can you say that Welwyn Garden City only offers a Sainsbury and a Waitrose (Diary, September 18)? Look a little closer and you'll find you can buy the country's most popular sandwich (prawn mayo) for £1.19 at the country's biggest sandwich retailer. Who, I hear you ask? Marks & Spencer, of course!

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT L. GALKOFF
9 The Hollies,
Oakleigh Park North,
N20 9HD.

Pay as you earn?

From Paul Fisher
Sir, Peter Young may have been paid £200,000 a year before he was sacked by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, but I question whether you are correct in stating that he earned it.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL FISHER,
24 Northumberland Place,
W2 5BS.

Tradepoint test for fund managers

From Mr Tim Jeal
Sir, So Tradepoint, the order-matching rival to the London Stock Exchange, is offering leading stocks at more competitive prices than those to be found on SEAC (Market Analysis, *The Times*, September 19).

Perhaps when the trustees of pension funds, unit trusts etc have recovered from the shock of the Morgan Grenfell debacle, they will find time to ask their fund managers why they are failing to use Tradepoint and thus be able to pass on to their unit holders the benefits of narrower spreads and lower charges? Perish the thought that the prospect of Wimbledon tickets or a week's grouse shooting might be influencing their decisions.

Yours sincerely,
TIM JEAL,
29 Willow Road,
NW3.

Letters to the Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Packer keeps Australia guessing about where he will spend his money

Cash-rich player rides out for takeover game

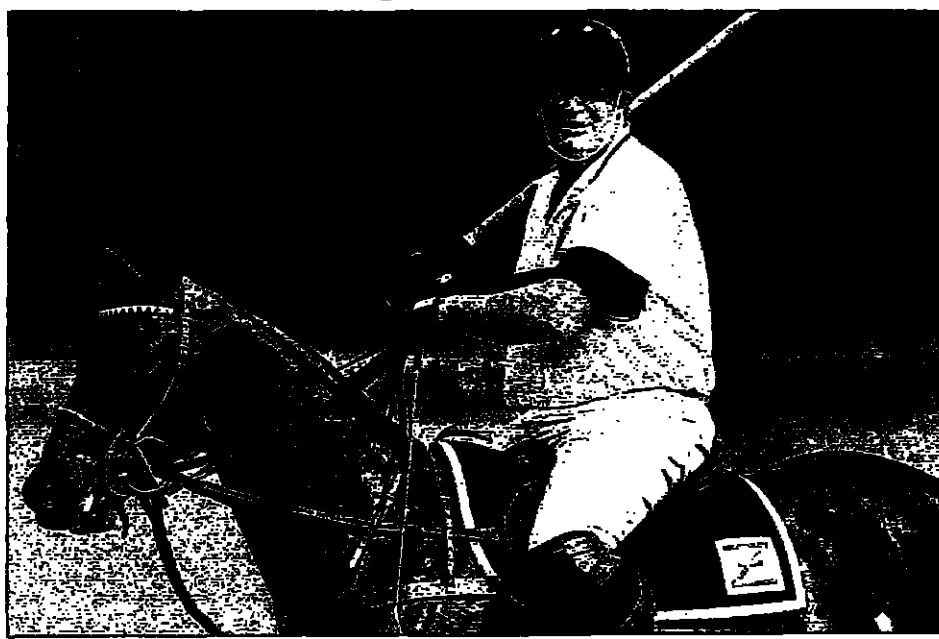
Kerry Packer, the media tycoon, has never been very good at staying out of the limelight for long. An inveterate gambler and polo player, Mr Packer has the headlines down under as much for his flamboyant private life as for his corporate manoeuvres, and the revelation that he bought 300 pairs of cashmere socks from a gentleman's outfitter on his most recent trip to London has only served to fuel the myth that this is a man who does not do things by halves.

This time round, however, the Australian rumour mill has gone into overdrive with suggestions that Mr Packer is on the verge of making his next big move.

In the past month, Consolidated Press Holdings (CPH), Packer's private company, has amassed almost A\$300 million (£150 million) in cash from the sale of strategic assets, namely a 15 per cent stake in Crown Casino, a Melbourne casino operator, for A\$204 million and the sale of a 4.8 per cent stake in Fairfax, the newspaper group, most of which was reshuffled into Publishing and Broadcasting Limited (PBL). Mr Packer's family controlled public company, for A\$91 million.

Fuelling speculation further, Consolidated Press said that the reduction of its stake in Crown Casino — it still has almost 10 per cent — "was motivated by the wish to liquidify some of its assets for use in other transactions".

PBL has also been cash-raising, selling its 8 per cent shareholding in Village Road-



Kerry Packer's mallet looms large over the heads of several prospective targets

for A\$110 million. Its directors have indicated that they are looking for a third business arm for the group, in media or entertainment. Analysts believe they have the ability to spend up to A\$1 billion. On past performance, it may not be long before Mr Packer makes his move. Every recent rationalisation of the Packer portfolio has been followed soon after by a large investment. The sale of A\$3 billion of assets between 1990 and 1992 for example — described as the world's biggest garage sale — was quickly followed by a surprise A\$500 million raid on Westpac, the Australian bank. Mr Packer has made no secret of the fact that at the top of his

wish list is Fairfax, whose stable includes *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*, both highly profitable.

The recent reshuffling of his Fairfax holding has left PBL with a stake of just under 15 per cent, the current limit allowed under Australia's cross-media ownership rules, indicating that it would be the preferred vehicle for a bid. Even if the ownership rules were relaxed, however, Mr Packer would still find himself doing battle for control of Fairfax with Conrad Black, owner of *The Daily Telegraph*, who has stated his wish to raise his stake in the group, currently limited to 25 per cent.

A more likely possibility is that PBL will raise its stake in Optus Vision, the pay-TV operator, which, analysts say, looks a much better business proposition than it was a few months ago. Currently with 5 per cent in the group, PBL has the option to raise its stake to 20 per cent at a cost of around A\$220 million. That option was made all the more attractive recently by a deal with Optus Vision that would allow PBL to pay for its higher stake on a cost basis, rather than market value. PBL has also secured first rights to the 13 per cent share option held by Seven, a rival media group, in Optus Vision if Seven does not take it up by the middle of next

year. Such a move would ultimately make PBL the largest shareholder, with a 33 per cent stake.

Beyond PBL, analysts suggest that Mr Packer could be considering something far more exciting for CPH, his private company, particularly now that Brian Powers, his right hand man, is spending more time organising CPH's affairs. High on the list, say analysts, could be a UK acquisition, especially now that Bruce Gyngell, fellow Australian and former employee, is at the helm of Yorkshire Television. Mr Gyngell was the first person to appear on Australian television, on Mr Packer's Nine network in 1956, — a feat that has left him with the label Mr Television in Australia. He has worked on and off for Mr Packer ever since. One analyst said: "The UK television market is a very real possibility for Packer and it would make a lot of sense. Television is currently one of the most buoyant markets in the UK." He notes that ACP, Mr Packer's magazine arm, already has extensive interests in the UK market, which, subject to the constraints of British media ownership rules, could pave the way for an entry into television.

Another strong possibility is that Mr Packer will finally make a move into casinos, something he has been keen to do since he lost the bid for the only Sydney Casino licence to a rival consortium. Mr Packer has made it clear that reducing his stake in Crown Casino was in no way a reflection on his confidence in the company

A\$100 million on his part-investment in just two years after Crown exceeded market growth expectations.

The jewel in the crown would be Showboat Inc, the US casino group that holds a 26 per cent stake in Sydney Harbour Casino and controls 85 per cent of its management contract. Showboat's shares soared 12 per cent, to US\$22.375, on suggestions that Mr Packer may be on the prowl. One analyst said: "Sydney is the one he would really like to get his hands on." The one drawback is Showboat's

share dilution system, which would make it difficult for Mr Packer to acquire a large stake, prompting speculation that he could be casting his eye over US casino operators instead. A third option would be expansion into Asia — Mr Powers is also chairman of Hellman and Friedman, the Asian arm of US investment house, and is believed to be looking at regional opportunities for Mr Packer.

Economic View will now appear on Fridays

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Chief who quit Rover to head Concentric

By OUR CITY STAFF

JOHN TOWERS, the former chief executive of Rover Group, was yesterday named chief executive of Concentric, the UK engineering firm. He will take up his appointment on October 1.

Concentric, based at Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, manufactures a diverse range of products, from car parts to chocolate moulds. The company had turnover of £142 million in the year to September 30, 1995, compared with Rover's 1995 turnover of £5.6 billion.

Concentric's top post is being vacated by Robert Bruce, who assumed command in October last year from its overseas division and is returning to the US for family reasons.

Mr Towers's departure from Rover, on June 1, came after rumoured tensions with BMW, the firm's German parent company, which took over the British car maker two years ago.

Mr Towers had been seen as a potential candidate for chief executive of LucasVarity, the group formed by the merger of Lucas Industries and Varity of the US, a post now held by Victor Rice, after George Simpson's move from Lucas to GEC.

Last month, Mr Towers joined the private equity arm of Hambros, the merchant bank, as a special adviser on a venture capital fund.

Mr Towers has previously held senior positions with Land Rover, Massey Ferguson Tractors, Canada's Varity Corporation and Perkins Engines, in Peterborough.



Richard Collard, left, the outgoing chairman, with Gerry Clements, managing director, at Creighton's factory in Storrington, West Sussex

Harcros hit by sluggish construction market

By OLIVER AUGUST

HARRISONS & Crosfield, the chemicals to building supplies group, was hit by a sluggish construction market and the impact of the beef crisis, in the six months to end June 1996. The group reported a slight fall in pre-tax profits but in the second half expects a clear improvement on last year.

Pre-tax profits fell from £66.4 million to £64 million, but the group emphasised that last year had seen an unusually large increase in profits. Earnings per share dropped from 5.9p to 5.7p, and the

interim dividend was maintained at 3.6p.

The main reason for the fall in profits was the depression in the European construction sector. Bill Turcan, the chief executive, said: "During the six months, three out of our four divisions made good progress. Timber and building supplies had a difficult half year but the steps we have taken to restructure this business are now taking effect, and the current results are on an improving trend."

Operating profits in timber

and building supplies declined from £122 million in the first half of 1995 to £27 million in 1996. Harcros, the builders merchant, saw turnover decline by almost 20 per cent, from £250 million to £200 million.

Harcros's operating profits were squeezed by almost 50 per cent, down by £4.5 million to £5.1 million. The other building suppliers in the group, Moore's and K & B, also saw sharp downturns, leading to a total fall in operating profits of 78 per

cent. Harcros was also hit by the costs and disruption created through restructuring. Harcros & Crosfield has now installed new management and IT systems.

The food division suffered from a slump in demand for animal feed in the aftermath of the crisis over BSE in beef. Overall operating profits in agriculture and food increased from £14.5 million to £18.8 million but BOCM Pauls, the pet food supplier, had to cope with a 28 per cent fall in operating profit from animal feed. The group does not expect the situation to improve in the near future. Operating profits in the plantations division increased by 14 per cent, and in the chemicals division by 2.4 per cent.

The group is still looking for a new finance director and is currently interviewing candidates.

Mr Turcan said that further investments in the malt division may be sensible. "These are good businesses. We are not throwing good money after bad."

Change of chairman at Creighton's

By MARTIN BARROW

RICHARD COLLARD resigned yesterday as chairman of Creighton's Naturally, the manufacturer of toiletries, soaps and fragrances. His departure was announced as the company revealed that its first-half profits would fall below those reported for the comparable period of 1995.

Mr Collard, who took the company to the stock market in 1988, is succeeded with immediate effect by John Carr as executive chairman.

The company also announced that Mr Carr had acquired 500,000 Creighton's shares from Mrs Glenda Collard, representing 10.7 per cent of the company, at 25p a share. In addition, Mr Collard has granted Ivory & Sime UK Discovery Trust an option over a further 500,000 Creighton's shares, exercisable up to October 31. Mr and Mrs Collard continue to hold 10.1 per cent of the company.

Shares of Creighton's fell 6p, to 54p, yesterday. In the first half of last year the company earned pre-tax profits of £773,000. The company's products are supplied to a number of supermarket chains and high street retailers.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Helical Bar enjoys 90% success rate

HELICAL BAR, the property development and investment company, said that about 90 per cent of the 930,000 sq ft of developments the group had completed or was still constructing was either pre-sold or in partnership with institutions. During the first half, the company sold £13.5 million of investment and trading property. Since July 1, the company had agreed further sales of more than £10.9 million of industrial and retail property. The total development programme of more than 2.2 million sq ft would have an eventual end value of more than £400 million, it said.

Pre-tax profits rose to £4.4 million, from £4.25 million, in the half-year to July 31. Earnings, fully diluted, fell to 9.5p a share from 12.6p, reflecting tax changes made at the last Budget. The interim dividend is increased 8.6 per cent to 3.15p a share, due November. Net assets were 334p a share at July 31 compared with 330p a year ago. The shares rose 5p to 395p.

BTR stake in China

BTR Automotive Systems Group, supplier of car-sealing systems and anti-vibration components, has acquired a majority stake in Wuxi CSH, an automotive vibration-control joint venture in China, for \$13 million. Wuxi is a sole supplier to Volkswagen and Audi in the region. The venture has enjoyed a turnover of more than \$14 million this year. The company, which employs 800, makes moulded rubber and rubber-to-metal bonded parts for sub-assemblies.

Beef ban lifts Global

GLOBAL Group, the meat importing company, was a net beneficiary of the ban on exports of British beef. The sharp rise in demand for pork, poultry and lamb resulted in a 34 per cent rise in sales, to £73.4 million, in the six months to June 30. Pre-tax profits rose by 42 per cent, to £1.2 million, from £842,000 in the previous first half. Earnings rose to 0.54p a share from 0.42p. There is an interim dividend of 0.21p a share (0.20p).

Brake Bros profits rise

BRAKE BROS, the food supplier to the catering industry, increased pre-tax profits to £12.4 million from £11.6 million in the six months to June 30. The company said that Puritan Maid, acquired from Forte in November, achieved sales of £58.8 million but incurred an operating loss of £1 million. Sales, mainly dependent on Forte volume, were lower than expected. Earnings were 15.8p a share (14.7p). The interim dividend is increased to 2.9p a share (2.7p), payable December 31.

Reg Vardy accelerates

REG VARDY, the automotive distributor, said new vehicle sales were up 11 per cent on a like-for-like basis, excluding acquisitions, in the opening weeks of the company's financial year. Sales of used vehicles were up 27 per cent. Peter Vardy, chairman, told the annual meeting yesterday the roles of chairman and chief executive would be split, with Graeme Potts, currently managing director, becoming chief executive.

PGA takes golf stake

PGA European Tour Courses, the golf courses owner and operator, has acquired the outstanding 50 per cent interest in European Tour Club Stockholm, for £3.11 million, taking the company's interest to 100 per cent. The 36-hole golf complex is due to host the Scandinavian Masters in 1998. PGA, formerly Union Square, reported pre-tax profits of £1.02 million for the six months to June 30, from £453,000. Earnings were 0.18p a share (0.36p). There is again no interim dividend.

Tourism boom helps Ryan Hotels

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

IRELAND'S tourism boom helped Ryan Hotels to record a 31 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits, the company said yesterday.

The Irish chain, which has five hotels in major cities throughout the country and

one each in Amsterdam, Brussels and Hamburg, recorded a profit of £16.6 million for the six months to July. Earnings per share jumped to £2.16p, from £1.66p, and the interim dividend rises 25 per cent, to £0.62p, payable on November 22.

Conor McCarthy, chairman, said that the company's

branded products, which range from weekend breaks to complete travel and accommodation packages, had performed particularly well in the British market, with a 35 per cent increase in room sales.

Overall turnover for the six months rose from £13.2 million to just over £13.9 million. Mr McCarthy said: "Our

strategy of providing superior-quality full-service hotels puts us in a strong position to meet competition from the increasing number of low-priced hotel development offering basic facilities."

"The strong trading conditions are continuing, and we look forward to an excellent result for the full year."

ACCOUNTANCY

Shed light on foreign firms

The UK needs a level playing field in the world of financial disclosure, Martin Scicluna argues

BRITISH companies are often surprised at the sparseness of financial information on competitors and new trading partners on the Continent.

Many directors believe that the highly developed reports and accounts published by UK companies put them at a disadvantage to European counterparts. A Deloitte & Touche survey indicates that this view has substance — UK companies are required to disclose key information that other European companies are not.

The survey covered the reports and accounts of 40 major companies, ten from each of the UK, Germany, France and Italy. Eighteen disclosures of information that might aid competitors and/or trading partners were given scores, ranging from zero for no information to one for reasonably full disclosure. The maximum possible scores were 18 for a company and 180 per country.

The scores for the four countries ranged from 42 for Italy to 147 for the UK. France and Germany scored 63 and 68 respectively. Scores of individual companies ranged from zero for an Italian company to 164 for a UK company.

There was no category in

which the UK lagged the other three countries, although standards vary quite widely from company to company. Clearly, overall, the quality of disclosures required of UK companies is far higher than that of our European partners.

However, the remedy for lack of comparable information is not easy, assuming the UK is not willing to let its high standards slip. It has been argued that a partial solution would be for the European Commission to introduce another tier of accounting and disclosure requirements for European companies. That might be a solution to lack of comparability within Europe, but would not solve the problems faced by UK plc, because the requirements would apply only to companies in Europe, not to competitors elsewhere.

Also, the UK would almost certainly keep its own accounting standards, which would probably be more demanding than the Europe-wide regime. Fortunately, the Commission last year announced a strategy intended to avoid new legislation as far as possible and work through a more flexible framework, which, it is hoped, will involve the Commission



Martin Scicluna wants international standards respected

supporting international accounting standards.

The International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) and the International Organisation of Securities Commissions have agreed that the IASC will develop its standard to meet the needs of

those involved in cross-border listings by 1999. This is likely to lead to more widespread use of international accounting standards. Even this will not solve the problems UK plc faces because the standards will apply only to companies with cross-border listings:

most of UK plc's competitors do not have such listings — and many have no listing.

I share concern that UK companies have to publish information that rivals abroad do not. However, we should encourage other nations to lift their reporting to our level rather than reverse the trend towards clear disclosure that helps to keep London as Europe's leading financial centre. We should also avoid further tilting the playing field against UK companies by increasing their reporting requirements unless really necessary. UK plc should be treated no more harshly than Deutschland GmbH and the rest.

The IASC should seek the support of stock exchanges and business around the world for an "International Operating and Financial Review" as a step to more comparable information.

An "International OFR" would build on the success of the UK OFR by offering an attractive option to companies (not only listed ones) that falls short of full compliance with rigid international accounting standards. The statement, voluntary and flexible, would have similar aims to the UK statement, ie, to encourage in companies' annual reports discussion of the business, the factors that underlie it and the structure of its financing.

Martin Scicluna is chairman of Deloitte & Touche

The lottery in reverse must be rectified now

IT IS a bit like audience participation at pantomimes. Everyone knows what to shout. The delight is in the predictability. Ernst & Young's new survey on self-assessment pulls the same trick. Will the new system of investigations under self-assessment be better for the taxpayer, they asked. "No," bellowed 90 per cent of tax advisers. Well, will it be better for tax advisers? "No," shouted 91 per cent. And then the question everyone has been waiting for. Will it be better for the Inland Revenue? "Yes," comes the roar from 85 per cent.

Will the new system be more confrontational? Some 82 per cent thought so. As wiser tax advisers have been saying for some time, we will look back on the present regime as a golden age. At present, tax inspectors and their minions are seen as pantomime villains.

No one will say that they love them, but most will accept that the job is probably done as fairly as an antiquated body of tax legislation allows. This will change once the system of random audits gets under way. No longer, theoretically, will tax inspectors take a look at people's figures because they think that there is something wrong. This computer system will pluck taxpayers from the system at random and an audit will be instituted. It is a bit like the lottery in reverse.

That is the theory. But it is unlikely to be the practice. What is expected to happen will be quite different. There will be almost nine million taxpayers in this system. Suddenly no human eye is going to look at their figures. So tax inspectors are going to become sceptical, and the result will be the less-than-random audit. One senior tax partner suggested last week that there would probably be around 10,000 "truly" random audits. And about another 40,000 would be targeted either at people the inspectors are doubtful about or at complete sectors, from publicans to plumbers, for example, which they are doubtful about.

Both systems are going to lead to confrontation. Under the new powers taxpayers will not be told that it is simply a random check. Of those polled in Ernst & Young's survey, 99 per cent thought this was daft. "It is not clear," said Ernst & Young, "why random audit should depend on taxpayer ignorance for its effectiveness. On the contrary, we would argue that if a taxpayer knows this is a spot check, he is far less likely to panic and far more likely to co-operate." The

system also creates a field day for the tabloid press. Penniless pensioners will be found to have expired on the spot with the Revenue notification clutched in their hands.

And those people with a targeted random check will be worse off. Currently the Revenue has to tell people why they are mounting an investigation. Under the new system they will be able to go ahead and trawl through everything. "In these circumstances," says Ernst & Young, "it is difficult to imagine how an audit will ever be closed. Worse, the temptation to launch fishing expeditions will be almost impossible to resist."

At the moment, criticism of the self-assessment system is too wide. The system fails to get the credit it deserves. As the president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, David Frost, will tell you: "The concept is spot-on." And the assumption is that it will be moved across to cover the corporate tax world in due course as well.

The focus for concern has to be the procedures, which is why the Ernst & Young survey is so timely. The problems are within the Revenue itself. "The Inland Revenue Board and the 'troops' sing a different song," Frost will tell you. The Inland Revenue itself has an impossible job. It has to collect the revenues from the increasingly odd tax policies laid down by the Government. But at the bottom of the pyramid, things are different. Down there inspectors are on commission. Or to be more polite, their pay reflects their success. "It was felt," said the Ernst & Young survey, "that inspectors are becoming increasingly aggressive in their approach, as a result of their profession and pay being directly linked to performance." Once you have told anyone that their future depends on how many convictions they can produce then justice has gone out of the window. That is the biggest fear surrounding the tax system.

On top of this, the powers to demand information have been widened. No longer is it only inspectors, but "any officer of the Board," who can do so. This, with pressures on manpower, means non-technical staff. "Practitioners," said the survey, "believed that junior staff were more likely to push the powers to the limit." Once the system is up and running and has become much more confrontational, all these errors to the procedures will be much harder to rectify. Now is the time to sort it out.



ROBERT BRUCE

Self-assessment out to lunch

ONCE self-assessment gets up and running it could start rivaling the world of VAT for bizarre tax arguments. One area that advisers are watching with a combination of doubt and delight is the whole idea of benefits.

Employees or recipients of any benefits are expected to provide full details of everything. "Do you realise," said one senior tax partner, last week, "that if I were to offer you some sandwiches during

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a meeting, you would need to know their value so you could declare it in your tax records?" No doubt the journalist's traditional get-out line will change. In future it will be: "I declined a sandwich and left immediately."

Lesson learnt

THE Canadians are very disappointed with the shy and retiring nature of UK lawyers as the Canadian ICA continues to

wrestle with the problems of professional liability. Like its UK counterparts, the Canadian ICA sees a system of proportionate liability as being more just.

It had heard of the eccentric Professor Burrows, who produced the review for the Department of Trade and Industry, which said that reforming the present system and introducing proportionate liability wasn't worth bothering with.

The Canadian ICA wanted to debate the issue with him, offering to set up a video-conferencing link.

However, Professor Burrows was resolute. Having taken such a battering from the UK accounting profession, he had no appetite for being battered by the Canadians as well.

"Probably very sensible," said a Canadian spokesman. "We would have just lambasted him further."

Join the party

WE KNOW that political parties have as much of a problem differentiating themselves from one another as do the big accountancy firms. So it is not surprising to find that the profession's campaign to fight the Government's iniquitous plans to limit to three years the time in which you can claim a VAT refund has gained another supporter.

He is Alex Salmon, leader of the Scottish National Party. It should make for a snappy section in the party's forthcoming manifesto.

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Equities bounce back

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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FILM 1
For the seventh time, *Jane Eyre* comes to the screen — but Zeffirelli misses the point



FILM 2
Young love is beautifully depicted by a veteran in Eric Rohmer's *A Summer's Tale*

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3
Michael Keaton splits four ways in *Multiplicity* — but the humour doesn't expand to fill



FILM 4
When the bullets fly in *Prohibition* America, Bruce Willis is (naturally) the *Last Man Standing*

Menace lost in thin Eyre

CINEMA: Charlotte Brontë's Gothic masterpiece needs more than pretty pictures to make it work, says **Geoff Brown**

One star comes from France, the other from America. The director hails from sunny Italy. The material is decidedly English — Charlotte Brontë's novel *Jane Eyre*, receiving at least its seventh cinema transfer. But anyone now can ape the style of filmed English literature and fill the screen with horse-drawn carriages, country houses, rolling hills, bonnets and birdsong.

The latest voyage into this territory is Franco Zeffirelli, famous prettifier of famous plays and operas. He is an absolute master of surface detail, as scene after scene proves. We note the layer of ice in the washing bowl at Lowood, the boarding school where orphaned young Jane (Anna Paquin, the girl from *The Piano*) is sent by her cruel aunt. Courtesy of William Hurt, we gaze into Mr Rochester's hollow eyes, side-whiskers and frown as he subsides into gloom in his dark study, made darker still by the photography of David Watkin.

All well and good. But these things are icing on the cake. We need to bite in and find substance. We need to feel a force pulling us through episodes that can seem a compendium of clichés from romantic fiction if left to their own devices. But despite decent work by Hurt and Charlotte Gainsbourg (the grown-up heroine who succumbs to his morose charms) the film leaves us high and dry. The script, prepared by Zeffirelli and Hugh White, is too neatly filled, while Zeffirelli appears over-eager to pop in a ready-made image. How many foreboding shots of a carriage approaching a mansion can one movie take? Although the film does nothing silly — like wheel on a specialist to restore Rochester's sight (an invention of the version made in 1921) — this *Jane Eyre* is still lightweight, lacking Gothic anguish.

British dependables beef up the cast: we get Joan Plowright as Rochester's housekeeper, and John Wood as the fearful ruler of Lowood school. Gainsbourg tucks her French accent away, by and large, and

Jane Eyre
Warner West End
PG, 108 mins
Where's the anguish, Zeffirelli?

A Summer's Tale
Renoir, U, 113 mins
Humane delight from Eric Rohmer

Multiplicity
Odeon Leicester Square
12, 117 mins
A good idea gone bad

Last Man Standing
Warner West End
18, 100 mins
Bruce Willis, of course

Don't Forget You're Going to Die
ICA Cinema, 118 mins
New French director Xavier Beauvois craves our indulgence



Charlotte Gainsbourg as the unhappy heroine of Franco Zeffirelli's remake of *Jane Eyre*, a film "bland and tidy, like painting by numbers"

soon become fast friends. In time he meets a greater enchantment, Solène. Then Lena arrives. Which should he choose?

True, this is not the world's most biting question. But while we watch *A Summer's Tale*, shot on location in crisp, sunny splendour, Rohmer makes it appear so. The older he becomes (he is now 76), the greater his sympathy with youth, and the greater his skill in teasing out their thoughts in a natural way. As Gaspard, Melvil Poupaud confronts his dilemma with a pensive look and a head of shaggy curls; he exasperates, but never bores. But the star attraction is Amanda Langlet, the teenage heroine of *Pauline at the Beach*, who invests Margot with such unforced sparkle that you long for their bond to prosper. The greatest pleasure, though, is Rohmer's simplicity. No army of technicians march behind him; all he needs to weave his magic are actors, a camera, sound equipment, a film editor, the sun, the sea, and the mysteries of the human heart.

Multiplicity, on the other hand, needs 12 computer animators, four software engineers and a raft of other technical specialists to manufacture its chief attraction: Michael Keaton times four. Four Keatons, unfortunately, prove no funnier than one.

The film's notion is one with obvious appeal to Harold Ramis, director of *Groundhog Day*. That endearing comedy put its bemused hero in a time rut, unable to escape endless replays of the same 24 hours. This one proposes a hero cloned into four, so he can better cope with the demands of job, family, and inner needs. Keaton No 2 is a macho dynamo at work, while No 3 is a fastidious, fey home-maker. No 4 is a mistake, a blurred Xerox with a child's mind, good only for cheap, cruel laughs. The original Keaton, meanwhile, goes sailing.

but he swigs much whisky, shows off his body, and proves an unerring shot even when beaten black and blue by the bootlegging gangs who vie for dominance in a dilapidated Texas border town.

The plot hails from Kurosawa's *Yojimbo*, where the hero was a samurai for hire and the squabblers rival merchants of sake and silk. The material transfers well to *Prohibition*, but the simple force of Kurosawa's images is quite beyond Walter Hill's direction. He directs in quotation marks. Nothing is for real: every character and scene comes styled like a pastiche, drawn from the bottomless barrel of American popular culture.

Finally, we reach the year's cheeriest title: *Don't Forget You're Going to Die*. No chance of that in this narcissistic film by the French actor and burgeoning director Xavier Beauvois. Beauvois's character, a graduate art historian, learns that he is HIV-positive. He reacts by throwing away caution, delving into heroin and cocaine, tasting bliss with a luscious girl in Italy, and risking death by joining partisans in Split. He wants to die like a 19th-century Romantic, and summons the shade of Byron to prove his lineage.

Beauvois' first feature, *Nord*, was morose enough, but maintained a sharp critical eye on place and character. Here he never steps beyond his hero's mind and sullen glare, and wallows in self-pity.

MULTIPLICITY
Daisy: Very colourful and vivid. Not many original jokes, but a decent and unpretentious comedy.

EDWARD: Michael Keaton faces the same problem as Bill Murray did in *Groundhog Day*. His solution is identical: seduce Andie MacDowell. Rachel: Not that original, but some enjoyable moments. Keaton does a great job. Tom: A bit mushy at times, and a bit slapstick at others.

SNAP VERDICT

'Needs jokes'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

JANE EYRE
Daisy: Newton Dunn, 19: What was a dreary book is an even worse film — rambling and incredulous.

Edward Baring, 22: I would recommend this to anyone with a bit of patience, but it does fall victim to its own authenticity.

Rachel Peirse, 19: The plot tended to go on and off the boil a lot, and it took forever to build any pace.

Tom Newton Dunn, 22: This desperately needed some jokes to lighten the tone. The lack of humour and variation meant that the characters merged into one.

LAST MAN STANDING
Daisy: Nicely photographed, but it lacked a convincing storyline.

Edward: One of the least enthralling films of the year. A must for all *Guns and Ammo* subscribers.

Rachel: A ridiculous pile of rubbish and bodies.

Tom: Even the pointing and squinting Bruce Willis failed to bring life to one of the shoddiest scripts of all time.

Swinging with Dennis Rowland; plus a trawl through the Camden Crawl

The growl and swagger king

ANYONE who sighed over the voice of Johnny Hartman on the soundtrack of *The Bridges of Madison County* should make haste to see the voice made flesh at Piza on the Park in Knightsbridge this week. The most potent extrovert to hit London in some time, **Dennis Rowland** offers proof that the male jazz singer, though an endangered species, is not yet extinct.

Not just a master of the Hartman-Eckstine school of balladry on *You're Blase*, the former Basie artist is just as adept at singing the blues à la Joe Williams, mugging his way through *Mark The Knife* in a Satchmo growl or turning on the Lou Rawls R&B swagger on *Wild Women (Don't Have The Blues)*.

If that makes him sound like a Rory Bremner jokebox, rest assured that Rowland has a personality all his own. Turning his back on the traditional image of the tuxedo-clad crooner, he bounded on to the stage in casual, Gap-style waistcoat and worked both the audience and his British musicians like a man possessed.

It might have been too brash and overpowering had he not possessed such acute musical instincts. His reading of *Angel Eyes*, opening slightly off-mike for dramatic effect,

I have heard: in *A Mellotone* floated elegantly above an understated swing pulse supplied by the Liam Noble quartet. Catch him before he leaves, and check your British reticence at the door.

Some fine tuning will be needed before Jacqui Dankworth's pop-cabaret group Field of Blue appear at the same venue next month. The

Crawling back to happiness

DESPITE the demise of Britpop, Camden Town is still the most fashionable square mile in Europe. Its high concentration of pubs, clubs and live venues means that there is always another place to go; another pop star to run into. It was therefore an obvious place for the Camden Crawl to be born.

Starting last year, the idea is to give people the opportunity to watch as many new bands as possible, in a festival-like atmosphere, at a very reasonable price. Participants swapped their £10 tickets for a wristband, which gave them access to more than 30 bands at seven different venues, and they were also given a 21-track CD featuring most of the acts, plus a guide map and a copy of the running order to help them to plan their course.

against Martin Brunsten's double-bass. But the original songs that make up the bulk of the repertoire lacked distinction; the pacing was uncertain, and it made no sense for Dankworth to step aside to allow her colleagues to take over the vocals again and again.

CLIVE DAVIS

proving to be a bit of hike. And it was too bad that Dingwalls revealed the first holes in the door policy when so many people turned up to see Tiger that the bouncers refused to let anyone else into the venue.

The overall highlights including the haunting trance-folk of Beth Orton (at WKD), the swaggering guitars of Bavi (at the Dublin Castle), the harsh, electro-sneer of the Speaker Pimps (at the Underworld) and the Monarch's lounge-style cinema, which provided a chill-out zone for the drunk and the tired. The venue of the evening, however, had to be the Electric Ballroom, which supplied free whisky and gin to everyone and which was where the Crawl finally came to rest.

ANN SCANLON

"THE MOST ROMANTIC FILM OF THE YEAR!"
Dawn Meadows - WNEWS/ABC

"MARVELLOUS"
ELLE MAGAZINE

"A PASSIONATE, SENSUAL FILM"
COSMOPOLITAN

WILLIAM HURT CHARLOTTE GAINSBORG JOAN PLOWRIGHT ANNA PAQUIN

JANE EYRE
A FILM BY FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI

STARTS TOMORROW
AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

CHOICE 1

Anne Sofie von Otter stars as Lyons Opera brings *Werther* to London

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican

CHOICE 2

Rattle launches the Birmingham concert season with Shostakovich

VENUE: Tonight at Symphony Hall

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Philip Prowse opens his new staging of *Hamlet* in Glasgow

VENUE: Tonight at the Citizens Theatre

NEW VIDEOS

John Travolta, career reborn, stars in *Get Shorty*, a droll comedy of Hollywood lowlife

Mobbing up in Hollywood



MOBSTER TO MOVIE MOGUL: John Travolta in Barry Sonnenfeld's *Get Shorty*

LONDON

GREAT ORCHESTRAS OF THE WORLD: The series opens with Kent Nagano conducting a concert performance of Mahler's tragic opera, *Werther*, by the dynamic Opéra National de Lyon and its internationally renowned orchestra. Anne Sofie von Otter and Jerry Hadley lead a sensational cast. With the New London Children's Choir under Ronald Corp. Barbican, 5th Street, EC2 (0171-638 8801). Tonight, 7.30pm.

SHOPPING AND SPINNING: Out of Jon's new production with a title raising eyebrows for the subsequent tour. Play by Mark Ravenhill, disorientated generation, shocking look at classism. etc. Royal Court Upstairs: Stage (formerly Ambassadors), West Street, WC2 (0171-330 1754). Preview from tonight, 9.15pm. Opens Oct 1, 9.15pm. Then Mon-Sat, 9.15pm. Until Oct 19.

TEMPORARY RUPTURE: Llewella Golder and Wayne Buchanan in Michael Cline's enjoyable war-of-the-generations comedy. A man wants to return to the woman he abandoned after her career problems; she has other plans for him. Pantoletto Randall directs for Black Theatre Co-operative. Warehouse, Dringdale Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tue, 8.30pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sun, 3pm.

BARBERS: Red Shift's excellent production of Melville's story of the Wall Street copy-clerk who one day decided not to copy. Pleasance London, Carpenters Mews, North Road, N7 (0171-609 1800). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sun, 4pm. Until September 29.

BOIES: Ondine London recreates his role of Marilyn in James Saunders's drama of former wife-obsession. The play for long at extras still carries conviction. Orange Tree, Clarence St, Richmond (0181-840 2653). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Thurs, 2.30pm. Sat, 4pm.

BY JEEVES: Delightful musical created by Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on the Woodhouse family, first revamped 20 years ago, now entirely rewritten. Dates of York's, St Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-406 5125). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed and Sat, 3pm.

DIAL "M" FOR MURDER: Wilfing Butler, written when phone numbers still included letters, — and its old-age is self-evident. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 3pm.

HAIR: Part 1: Michael Bogdanov's mighty two-part production of Galt's drama, with Michael Feast in the title role, Hugh Quarshie as Mephistopheles.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's new season begins with a concert conducted by its music director, Sir Simon Rattle. Shostakovich's Symphony No 14 is performed alongside Bruckner's Symphony No 7, with Elena Prokhorova, soprano, and Thomas Cassell, bass. Repeated on Sunday, at 7pm. Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm.

EXETER: Odon von Horvath's early (1932) play *The Belle Vue*, Kenneth Coady's version of Zurbriggen's *Ausschä*. Gresham and production in a run-down house. An evening with an elderly nymphomane. Nick Phillips directs for Actors Touring Company. Northcott, Stocker Rd, Penryn (01326 453462). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat Sun, 10.15pm, Oct 5-12.

GLASGOW: Philip Prowse's production of *Hamlet*, with Cal

LONDON GALLERIES

Anthony d'Ottavio: Elton Gallagher (0171-494 4100). Barbican, Edwin Burnfield: A Feast for Beauty (0171-638 4141). Concorde: British Prints (0171-494 4100). Dufrenoy: Dutch Power Painting (0181-684 5254).

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre in London

■ Hours full, returns only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

The Pit, Barbican, St. Paul's, EC2 (0171-638 8801). Tonight, 7.30pm. In rep. Until October 5.

KINDERTRANSPORT: Diane Quack and Jean Boht in Diane Simon's moving drama about a Jewish girl who fled England from Nazi Germany but grew up in denial. Royal Opera's production in the West End at last. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-406 5125). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed and Sat, 3pm.

KING LEAR: Having just directed the Bankside Globe's first production, Jack Shepherd now directs Oliver Cromwell. Swan, St. Paul's, EC4 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 3pm.

MARTIN GUERRE: The latest Bault/Schönberg musical brings back

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NEW RELEASES

ANTONIA'S LINE (15): A Dutch woman's busy life, her good mood from Marlon Brando: this year's winner of the Best Foreign Film Oscar. Carfax (0171-737 1727). Sale (0171-737 1727). Virgin Classics (0171-352 5096).

ESCAPE FROM LA (15): Bouncy action movie from John Carpenter, set in a Los Angeles Los Angeles of 1931. Empire (0200-886 911) UCI Whiteleys (01909 889990) Virgin Classics (0171-352 5096) Virgin Classics (0171-352 5096).

THE GREAT WHITE HYPE (15): Flat-footed sports satire, with Samuel L. Jackson as a flamboyant boxing promoter. Director, Reginald Hudlin. Orion (0171-737 1721).

QUANTANAMERA (15): Lethargic Cuban satire with a few bright trimmings. Director, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabares. Metro (0171-437 0757).

THE INCREDIBLY TRUE ADVENTURE OF TWO GIRLS IN LOVE (15): Gaudy but sweet tale of teenage lovebirds, written and directed by Mimi Farrow. With Laurel Holloman and Nicole Parker.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol () on release across the country

ABC Television Court Road (11): 636 6149. Clapham Picture House (0171-437 0757) Virgin Classics (0171-352 5096).

STRIPTHEASE (15): Demi Moore's stripper seeks custody of her daughter. Clumsy mixture of sex, satire and melodrama, with Ben Heywood. Director, Andrew Bergman. ABC (0171-437 0757) Virgin Classics (0171-352 5096).

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ART GALLERIES

NEW GRAFTON GALLERY: 49 Church Road, Barnes, SW13. 0181-748 8850. Ruth Stage and Jacqueline Williams. Until 12 October.

ROYAL CHURCH FASHION SHOW: Monday, 26th Sept, 7.30pm. At 10.15pm in aid of the Prince of Wales. In the presence of HRH Prince Charles, Duke of York, and Lady Diana, Princess of Wales. Tickets: £10.00. Tel: 0171-494 5070.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE (15): 130 4000. For Office & Sunday. Tickets available on the day.

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THEATRES

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE: Wall 9 Journal.

SUNSET BOULEVARD: Winner of 7 Tony Awards. Including Best Musical. Starring Rita Moreno for 6 weeks only. 26th Credit Card Bookings. Call 0171-330 1754 (day) for booking. No booking fee for Adelphi. Recorded information 0171-379 8884. Mon-Sat 7.45 Mat. Thu 6.30. PETA CLARK RETURNS 4 NOV.

DIAL M FOR MURDER: Masterpiece. Call 0171-330 1754 (day) for booking. No booking fee for Adelphi. Recorded information 0171-379 8884. Mon-Sat 7.45 Mat. Thu 6.30. PETA CLARK RETURNS 4 NOV.

ENTERTAINMENTS: Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313.

ALBERT THEATRE (11): 389 1700. cc 0171 344 4444. East 7.30. Mat. Wed 6.30. UNLIMITED SEATING TO 16 NOV.

UNCLE VANYA: by Anton Chekhov. FRANCES BARBER. CONSTANCE CLAMMING. TRENOR JONES. DEREK JACOBI. RICHARD JOHNSON. PEGGY MOUNT. JOHN MCKINNON. MAGNET STUBBS. Directed by Bill Bryden. "A breathtakingly intelligent production." *The Daily Telegraph*. "The best Chekhov I have seen." *7 Times*.

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THEATRES

APOLLO VICTORIA (11): 415 9055 cc 0171 344 4444. 420 0000. Fax 0171 415 9055. Andrew Lloyd Webber's *SUNSET BOULEVARD*.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS: THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH. White Iverson and 10.45 day. Tue & Sat 3pm. Tickets from £12.50.

APOLLO 44 (15): 5070344 4444. 0000 Gps. 494 5454/50 6793. PETER DAVISON in Frederick Knott's *Class*. 9.15pm. Mon-Fri 8.15. Sat 8.15.

DIAL M FOR MURDER: Masterpiece. Call 0171-330 1754 (day) for booking. No booking fee for Adelphi. Recorded information 0171-379 8884. Mon-Sat 7.45 Mat. Thu 6.30. PETA CLARK RETURNS 4 NOV.

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THEATRE 1

The Whitehall farce returns — in all its logic-stretching glory — with *Cash on Delivery*



THEATRE 2

... while Leeds enjoys a revival of *Office Suite*, a pair of Alan Bennett's most prescient plays

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

Can a Russian-born violinist lead the Ulster Orchestra to new heights in its anniversary year?



RADIO

Reminiscences of F. Scott Fitzgerald and Zelda in the writer's centenary year

THEATRE: A second-generation Cooney farce in London; a revival of Alan Bennett's prophetic double bill in Leeds

Whoops, there goes the plot again

One of those scientists who are busily unravelling the secrets of DNA should get bits of Cooney into the lab without delay. There might be a Nobel Prize for whoever identifies the gene that father Ray, author of *Chase Me, Comrade* and a dozen other farces, has passed on to son Michael, author of *Cash on Delivery*. The main characteristic of this snippet of double helix is clear enough. It consists of a compulsion to thrust cartoon people into situations that force them to tell so many fibs, adopt so many guises, that harmless critics like me are left begging for something simple, like a five-hour play in German by Botho Strauss.

Is this the sort of gene that scientists should eradicate while the sufferer is in the womb? When the protagonist of *Cash on Delivery* decided he had developed Tourette's syndrome and started feverishly groping an ageing lady of vast bulk and ferocious mien, I did wonder. But there was another, more forgiving side of me that often shook with something that, rather to my surprise, I had to admit was laughter.

Farce had, after all, returned to the Whitehall, where Ray Cooney performed beside the great Brian Rix in *Dry Rot*, *Simple Spynen* and his own *One for the Pot*. *Husbands* hid in cupboards. *Trousers* fell. Nostalgia freaks will not find those things in *Cash*, but they will get a supposed corpse running around while still attached to his stretcher, men in drag, and an exploding washing machine.

And what of the plot? Yes, I was afraid you might ask. All the confusions derive from the attempts

of Bradley Walsh's Eric, who has lost his job with the electricity company, to perpetuate massive social security frauds. When Frank Thornton's wintry inspector comes to ask questions about one of the invalids, unemployed men, widows and fatherless children with whom he has supposedly packed his house, he and an unwilling lodger soon find themselves dementedly covering up endless cover-ups. Indeed, Nick Wilton's Norman is variously cast as a lumberjack with lassa fever who has died falling from a tree, his deaf son, and the local landlady.

There is some logic to events that soon involve an undertaking, a doctor specialising in transvestism, and God knows who else; but it is well over the boundary between the just-plausible and the preposterous. If the DSS is as glib and generous as this, Peter Lilley should promptly be fired, for income tax must be 20 per cent higher than it should be. As it is, you get the feeling that if a character entered disguised as a stock, the social service sleuths on hand would promptly smother it with maternity benefits.

Still, still, I could have done without all those jokes about little Willy and Uranus; but I enjoyed the moment when Brian Murphy's elderly fraudster gets billed by a door, flutters about like a goofy marionette, and passes out. I laughed when the others tried to revive him by making him sniff the contents of a black plastic bag, and John Hart Dyke's creepy mortician concludes they are getting rid of a corpse on the cheap. The Whitehall is back — way, way back — in business.



It's a classic: Justin Shevlin and Tracie Bennett in *Cash on Delivery*, plus corpses, men in drag and an exploding washing machine

Greedy and not so great

Contemporary writers live several public lives. The most public is in the news and gossip columns of newspapers, where enormous advances are announced, attacked, ridiculed and dissected. Another life is lived on our bookshelves, where the books for which they received the huge advance live a life mostly untroubled by anyone actually reading them.

This situation has led to writers having a reputation for greed and publishers being portrayed as the sort of mug three-card tricksters long to find entering their field of vision. Lest anyone thought this situation was new, the centenary of the birth of F. Scott Fitzgerald has arrived at a perfect moment.

Fitzgerald has featured this week in two Radio 4 programmes: *Reading Aloud — The Great Gatsby Letters* (Sunday) and *Book at Bedtime* (Monday to Friday), which opens a new and welcome series with *The Great Gatsby* itself.

Fitzgerald was of course some distance from being the lonely artist scribbling in his garret, which is the preferred public image of writers. He and his wife Zelda were part of the expat American group that wandered Europe in the 1930s, spending much of their time in Paris and on the Riviera; they helped to make the latter the ugly sprawl it is today.

The letters in *Reading Aloud* were written by Fitzgerald around the time that *The Great Gatsby* was published, in 1925. The book's success saved him, for the alcohol that fuelled his social life was being consumed in inverse proportion to the royalties needed to purchase it.

So I guess it is no surprise that Fitzgerald emerges from the letters as a man obsessed with money, a fault easily decried by those who do not suffer a lack of it. Even so, he had an extraordinary appetite for discussing cash, and even when writing about the books he appears to have been more interested in presentation than content. No wonder that he eventually went to Hollywood.

Elsewhere this week, Radio 3 has sent me on a marathon and my performance so far is abysmal: I am exhausted at the end of lap one. I know that Simon Rattle is a Very Great Conductor who has turned the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra into a world-class outfit. But should he not be deceased to qualify for 16 hours of radio?

Simon Rattle — Home and Away is running for two hours every Saturday lunchtime for the next eight weeks. The series is about his various orchestral collaborations, just in case we thought he was born on the podium in Birmingham. Part one included Rattle, aged 18, conducting Stravinsky with the Glasgow Youth Orchestra, and very impressive it was.

The BBC is fond of themed programming but there is certainly no requirement to hear the whole of this series to get pleasure from it. Which, in my case, is probably just as well.

PETER BARNARD

Successful audit of a prophet on paper

IF ALAN Bennett had lived in the Middle Ages, he would have died at the stake, condemned for selling his soul in exchange for the gift of reading the future. When *Enjoy* was revived last year, the conservation of a slum house as part of the national heritage (the play's climax) was no longer the quirky fantasy it must have seemed a decade and a half earlier.

Again and again he has sensed what will surely happen if things go on as they are, together with the insight to determine which things are ominous. Like the headmaster

in his first play, *Forty Years On*, when he hears the word fart, he knows which way the wind is blowing.

When the two television plays that make up the double bill of *Office Suite* were transmitted in 1978, computers had not yet obliterated work practices that had survived for centuries. Quills had been replaced by fountain pens and then by typewriters, but the filing and issuing of

documents was much as it had been when clerks of the Inquisition docketed intake of witches against purchase of stakes. In *Green Forms*, Bennett catches the moment when the computerised future arrives, and in *A Visit from Miss Prothero* it has kicked the present into the past.

At their desks in an ill-kept office, Paola Dionisotti and Susan Wooldridge, playing Doris and Doreen, gossip, complain about other departments and occasionally do a spot of typing. They are not exactly idle but, seen from 1996, their duties appear archaically laborious. Bennett's dialogue is packed with the

jargon that all workforces create. "What's Wolverhampton doing here?" Doris asks, looking into a buff folder. "It's because of Solihull," comes the reply. We learn no more about the wandering Wolverhampton but recognise a verbal short-cut, a convenience to those who use it, comedy to those who overhear.

An apparently misdirected form (green) that comes their way starts them questioning

their future, which turns out to be terminally endangered. Dionisotti, the fierce one, unwisely confident of her value, and Wooldridge's timorous assistant shade in altogether credible details of office behaviour, and Jennie Darnell's direction guides the mood from comedy to alarm. William Hargreaves's clever design surrounds the office with a rubbish-heap of filing cabinets.

JEREMY KINGSTON

MUSIC: The Ulster Orchestra is 30 years old on Saturday. Hilary Finch meets its new conductor

Belfast is never more artistically buoyant than when its social and political future is in precarious balance. And that, after all, is most of the time. It is too late, "Louis MacNeice commented all of 60 years ago, "to save your soul with bunting." But there will be more than bunting on display in Belfast this autumn. A confident new season, with two new productions, is under way at Opera Northern Ireland: a new 2,250-seater concert hall is rising from the Waterfront, planned to open in January; and the Ulster Orchestra celebrates its thirtieth anniversary at the end of this week with the appointment of a new principal conductor, Dmitri Sitkovetsky.

The orchestra, founded on September 28, 1966, had only three years of peaceful gestation before the Troubles began again. Yet in three decades of roadblocks being raised and lowered, peace being tasted and spai out again, the orchestra has built a formidable reputation for the perfor-

Smiling through the Troubles

mance and recording of British music, under the direction of Bryden Thomson and Vernon Handley.

It has toured its own province diligently and Europe and America extensively; and it has recently developed a flair for brighter Gallic colours under the direction of Yan Pascal Tortelier. The band has grown from 37 to 63 players: just the right size for shading into the darker, richer Russian palette by a violinist for whom chamber-music making remains a priority.

Moscow forged Sitkovetsky the soloist: the Juillard School in America, to which he emigrated in 1977, made a chamber musician of him; Seattle and Finland developed him into a festival director, pro-

grammer and canny personnel manager. With his own "dream team" of string players in the New European Chamber Orchestra, the baton was all that remained for him to pick up. "Being a conductor is the ultimate musical experience, because you get to play — in your mind, and sometimes physically too — all the parts, and you get even further under the composer's skin."

Sitkovetsky first met the Ulster Orchestra as soloist in the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in 1988; he then conducted the composer's *Serenade for Strings* at three days' notice. "I was immediately aware of the closeness and alertness of their ensemble. They function like a large chamber orchestra, with

everyone fully engaged and no sense at all of the merely routine. I felt a wonderful sense of rapport."

"It doesn't matter where they come from; when the players arrive in Belfast, something happens. There's a sense of openness, of passionate spirit, even of mischief. The element of humour is absolutely essential, after all, in a situation which is so strange, so complicated. There is something of the Russian character there."

Not least in the forthcoming programming. The season starts as it means to go on, with Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Shostakovich — and later with Rodion Shchedrin, one of the most successful composers of the Soviet era.



Dmitri Sitkovetsky: "Like preparing for a space flight"

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Claire Tomalin admires the tenacious and God-fearing wife of Alfred Lord Tennyson

O Love, what hours were thine and mine

Emily Tennyson was described as an "Angel" more frequently than any other person in 19th-century England, and when she was not an angel she was a saint. Her claim to angelic status rested on her position as perfect wife to Alfred Tennyson. It seemed appropriate that the greatest living poet should be supported by a woman ethereally beautiful and deeply religious. He, a melancholic and disorderly genius, tipped port and failed to answer letters. She, frail and usually unwell, dealt with his huge correspondence, organised the upkeep of two enormous country houses, and entertained on an heroic scale; for Tennyson, like Byron, became a celebrity, and they knew everyone, the Queen, Gladstone, Jewett, and a clutch of duchesses and deans.

Ann Thwaite's revelation that Emily had a taste for alcohol too — she kept going on champagne and brandy mixed into arrowroot — comes as rather a relief. Other reasons for her effectiveness were her faith in the power of prayer — she believed God smiled at her when she prayed — and, it must be said, a will of pure steel.

Her mother died when she was three, which can produce a particularly strong-minded and determined child, and she seems to have been a classic case of displaced ambition, serving first her father, then her husband and finally her sons.

Her father, a country lawyer, did not marry again and Emily, the eldest of three daughters, learnt to look after him and the household. She could read Dante and Goethe in the original, studied history and took an interest in social questions. None of this, incidentally, led her to believe that women should be granted either votes or degrees: "the order of the world gives women more power than ever so much self-assertion," she wrote later. As Ann Thwaite adds in one of her pithy asides: "There had never been any question of the power Emily herself held."

This is the first biography devoted to this formidable person. Ann Thwaite has filled out an enormous amount of detail, and paints a warmly sympathetic picture of her as

daughter and wife. Emily first saw Tennyson, handsome as a god, when she was still a child in Lincolnshire, and they fell in love a decade before their marriage in 1850. Lack of money, religious differences and perhaps his fear of being bound by a wife and too many children helped to keep them apart. Only when he reached 40 was he persuaded that the marriage would be good for him: two days after the ceremony he announced: "We seem to get on very well together. I have not beaten her yet."

He made the jokes, but she

EMILY TENNYSON
The Poet's Wife
By Ann Thwaite
Faber, £20
ISBN 0 571 16554 0

more than held her own. For all her delicacy, she gave him three sons, the first still-born when she was 37, the two who survived a source of intense joy to both. The marriage also coincided with the beginning of his financial success, and she took charge of that aspect of their life also. Ann Thwaite quotes from *The Daisy*, one of his most perfect tributes to her, although she doesn't give my favourite lines, in which Tennyson's unparalleled music is joined to his wife's grasp of economics: "O love, we two shall go no longer/ To lands of summer across the sea/ So dear a life your arms enfold/ Whose crying is a cry for gold."

The dearer life was that of her second son, Hallam. Mrs Thwaite, herself the wife of a fine poet, is particularly touching on the happy family life on the Isle of Wight, and the gentle rearing of the two boys, kept in tidy curls and clothes long beyond the usual years. She says neither parent believed in original sin and there was a glowing innocence about their upbringing.

Ann Thwaite is rarely critical of her, but does say she did not know how to let go of her sons. Tennyson was not much better: they formed a charmed, mutually dependent circle of four, and intruders, including



Alfred Lord Tennyson with Emily and their sons Lionel and Hallam, at Farringford on the Isle of Wight (1863)

the sons' wives, had to submit to Tennyson's rules or suffer. Emily's amassing of money and property, the acceptance of a hereditary peerage, were surely for the sake of the boys. She also wrote letters pushing for favours from Gladstone and other influential figures. Both sons were amiable: Lionel dogged and serious, Lionel frivolous and unable to settle to work. Not too surprisingly, the more their mother pushed, the less they became.

This is a finely and deeply researched work, and clearly a labour of love. It is not a light book. Six hundred pages are a generous allowance for someone who would not be remembered but for her association with a great man (and oddly, she gets no index entry while he has four columns). Ann Thwaite believes that Lady Tennyson was a more passionate and a less conventional person than she has been made to appear, but although she has filled out the picture admirably, it does not seem substantially changed. Still, she tells an ever absorbing story, and throws much light on that fascinating social area in which high art and worldly power meet.

Until Foreign Secretaries took to jettisoning round the world like demented travelling salesmen, ambassadors were mighty potentates, influencing as well as executing policy.

David Bruce may not just be rated "The Last American Aristocrat", but he was certainly one of those last great paladins of diplomacy. After (the still much lamented) Raymond Seitz, Bruce was probably the most successful — and popular — envoy to be sent by Washington to the Court of St James's since the war. Under Macmillan and Wilson, JFK and LBJ, he served here for eight years, making him the longest incumbent on record.

Apart from London — which, from wartime days, had become a spiritual home — Bruce was also Ambassador in Paris, Bonn and Peking (where he opened relations for Nixon after Kissinger's historic breakthrough of 1971). He had, says Mr Lankford, "a knack for being present at the most dramatic turning points in his country's foreign affairs".

Born in 1898 of Virginian grandee stock, with the proverbial silver spoon, he went to all the right schools, and for a while reminded people of the lion-eating youths out of Scott Fitzgerald — a friend at Princeton. He went to France with the Army, and was bitterly disappointed to be too late for the war: but fell in love with Paris, and the best French wines. Then he married the daughter of the richest man in America, Andrew Mellon. He toyed briefly with a diplomatic career, but the hyper-rich and neurotic Alisa brought him

Spark struck out and lacking fire

Rachel Cusk

REALITY AND DREAMS
By Muriel Spark
Constable, £14.95
ISBN 0 09 46907 5

The title of Muriel Spark's latest novel is something of a red herring, standing adjacent to the story until the very end, and constantly threatening in moments of peculiarity or dissonance to admit entrance to a much larger and more complex framework of ideas than those to which the novel actually adheres.

Reality and Dreams is in fact a convenient, if mildly encrypted, shorthand for the landscape of cinema, and less plausibly for that of the wider creative imagination. The novel begins promisingly along these lines, with a successful film director waking in hospital after a bad fall during which, among other things, he has suffered concussion. That the creative process operates from a junction of the mind at which it might be possible, given a knock on the head, to become stuck in an interesting idea; but this sinister notion, rather than forming the backbone of the novel, merely lends it an ethereal overlay in which everything, while certainly seeming a bit odd, isn't quite strange enough to gather to itself any particular significance.

Instead, the story of Tom Richards and his warring family soon slides back to the altogether more Sparkish territory of foul play, gritty repartee,

and some of the most vaudeville plotting of her career.

Tom Richards, toppled from his director's crane and confined to the gossip-fuelled passivity of his bedroom, lies in symbolic splendour at the centre of one of the novel's most robust, if unmoored, concerns: the redundancy of men. The cruelty of the word itself evidently exerts some fascination for Spark, who sets about laying off her characters and then watches as the civilised patina of male behaviour begins to tarnish and fade. "Apparently the phenomenon of male redundancy is frequently accompanied by a brusque fall in sexual activity and reduced desire with the impossibility of having a complete erection," the perfect conditions for sexual mayhem, as these abject, lapsed males abdicate from their marriages in search of their lost potency.

Meanwhile, Tom is attempting to

maintain control of both his film and his family, between which he has difficulty in distinguishing. The film, *The Hamburger Girl*, is a film, a fanciful tale revolving around a girl Tom glimpsed years earlier on a French campsite making hamburgers, a girl whose charm is "that she has no history". The family is far more gripping. At its centre are Tom's two daughters: Cora, beautiful and good; and Marigold, hideous and bad. Cora is the repository of male self-esteem and Marigold is thief: Cora the apple of her parents' eye, and Marigold their nemesis.

Indeed, the undisguised loathing with which Tom and his wife Claire, and for that matter their author, regard Marigold is somewhat startling. "Why should anyone bother to murder Marigold?" thinks Tom, in response to the proposition, after his daughter has gone missing, that this is what might have happened to her. Poor Marigold is at least given the pabulum of a part in one of Tom's films; but her ill-treatment is typical of the atmosphere of unfocused fierceness which pervades the novel.

Reality and Dreams finally has more in common with the chaotic sensibility of *Symposium* than the



Unfocused fierceness: Spark (1992)

black drollery of *A Far Cry from Kensington*, the much-acclaimed novel which preceded it. The ingredients here, though numerous and well-chosen, fail to achieve the delicious nastiness for which Spark is so widely admired, and instead leave a rather unpleasant taste in the mouth.

Fine French wine at the Paris Ritz and cyanide pills at Claridge's

Alistair Horne

THE LAST AMERICAN ARISTOCRAT
The Biography of Ambassador David K. E. Bruce
By Nelson D. Lankford
Little, Brown, £17.50
ISBN 0 316 51501 9

out of it. Then followed traditional but sterile years — in law, investment banking and local politics.

In some ways Bruce's life reminds me of Harold Macmillan, with whom he was to become so closely associated. Both had the same aristocratic bearing: the unflappable exterior which revealed nothing of what was going on beneath. Both had unhappy marriages which helped to sharpen their professional zeal. Most significantly, both were late developers who were made by the Second World War. While Macmillan was sent by Churchill to North Africa, and never looked back, that same year David Bruce, now already in his forties, was sent by his friend "Wild Bill" Donovan to head the London bureau of the OSS, America's new Secret Service.

At one moment he and the fearless Donovan narrowly escaped capture by the Germans in Normandy — to discover (fortunately) that they



Great paladin of diplomacy: Ambassador David Bruce

had left behind in Claridge's the cyanide pills mandatory for a secret agent. Together with Ernest Hemingway, Bruce was one of the principal claimants to have liberated the Paris Ritz, and was appointed CBE and awarded the American Distinguished Service Medal — though most of his battles seemed to have been fought against the diehards of British Intelligence.

From 1945, despite various vain attempts to retire into private life, the way was ever upwards. In 1949, Bruce — commended by his knowledge and love of France — was sent to emigrate the Marshall Plan in Paris. The background to what eventually was to become the European Community is the most informative part of this book. I did not know just how close David Bruce's

relationship was with Jean Monnet, whom he regarded as "the foremost philosopher of the 20th century". Mr Lankford says with justice that "for a generation he was one of a select band of brothers who kept the Atlantic alliance alive".

From the Marshall Plan, it was a logical step to his first Embassy, Paris, in 1949. In the meantime, in wartime London, he had also acquired a new and much younger wife, his secretary, Evangeline Bell. Regrettably, I never knew David Bruce, but Evangeline — who died last year after tragically losing her sight — became a close friend for many years. A Gainsborough-like beauty, her charm and skill as a hostess undoubtedly contributed immeasurably to David's success.

After Paris, it was Bonn (which he described as "cruel and unnatural punishment"). His wartime experiences had filled him with mistrust for the Germans; nevertheless, he left amid highest praise from Adenauer, and in 1961 he went to London as the newly elected President Kennedy's envoy.

If I have a quibble, it is over Mr Lankford's interpretation when he says that, with Ormsby-Gore as British Ambassador in Washington, Kennedy "made Bruce almost superfluous in London", and that he was much more effective under Johnson. This was not the impression I received from

the Bruce papers when writing the official Macmillan biography. Wonderfully witty and colourful (he once described the vast Lord Chancellor, Dilhorne, as overlapping on both sides of the Woolpack) his dispatches were highly perceptive of Macmillan — and clearly had their influence in the White House.

Unhappily for the Bruce their departure from London in 1969 was muddied by the ferocity of the anti-Vietnam demos, which left Grosvenor Square a shambles. He was glad to go. Then followed a sequence of family tragedies which darkened his remaining years.

This is one of the more engaging biographies I have read this year. It eulogises its subject, but never excessively; the flaws are not passed over, and Mr Lankford has done his homework on the historic backdrop superbly. If David Bruce were alive today one wonders, however, if he would not be downcast by Eurocracy in Brussels rather than the Europe he dreamt of, and at Britain's disarray in coming to terms with it.

Alistair Horne's *How Far from Austerlitz: Napoleon 1805-1815*, will be published by Macmillan in November.

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Insuring against the future

The 1990s have not been kind to the insurance industry. Lloyd's names were engulfed by huge losses. Telephone-selling direct insurers pulled the rug from under traditional high-street brokers, while the reputation of financial advisers skidded under the £4 billion pension-transfer scandal.

Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost. Yet the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), the industry's professional body with more than 70,000 members, is looking forward to its centenary year with confidence.

Professionalism is the key. The CII has set out its stall as the essential body, raising standards across the industry in a bid to regain the public's lost confidence.

Starting out as an insurance salesman only five years ago was famously easy. High-pressure sales techniques became commonplace, and public anxiety began to increase rapidly.

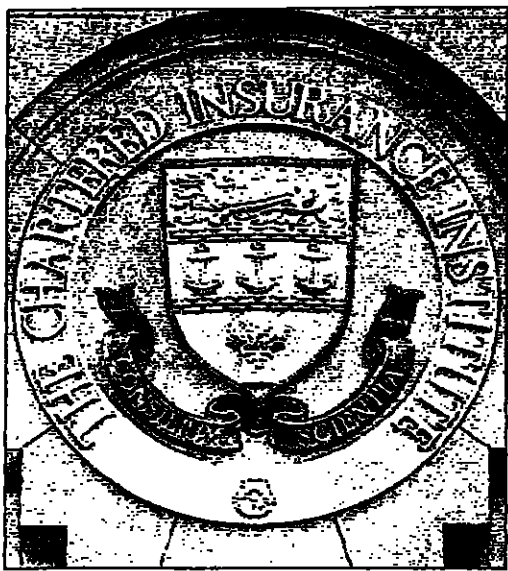
But a revolution is going on in educational and competency standards, led by the CII. Its director-general, David Bland, says: "Insurance has had a terrible press. In 1990, 70,000 examinations were taken. Last year it was 200,000, showing that employees and employers are getting the message that they need to be qualified."

The institute has a duty to get it right: insurance is an industry that employs more than 250,000 people in the UK. Last year life insurance premiums totalled £44 billion, while general insurance premiums topped £41 billion, according to the Association of British Insurers.

The biggest challenge for the institute over the past year has been the Personal Investment Authority's demand that all advisers obtain the CII's Financial Planning Certificate.

Dr Bland says: "Nearly 50,000 people have completed the exam, yet there have only been a handful of serious complaints. We have had to deal with people who are, say, 55 and have been in the

As it celebrates its centenary, the Chartered Insurance Institute looks ahead to a more qualified and professional industry. Patrick Collinson reports



The Chartered Insurance Institute coat of arms

industry for years and for whom taking an exam is a psychological issue. We have also had to do it very cost effectively."

But minimum qualifications are only the first part of the institute's commitment to professionalism. Dr Bland makes it clear that the FPC and the Certificate of Proficiency are only a junior standard. "They are more equivalent to being a pharmacist. The advanced certificate is the right level claiming that you are professional. But only when you are a fellow of the CII are you more akin to being a surgeon."

Fellowship is obtained after taking

the associateship examination, followed by three years' practice and submitting a dissertation. Despite the tough entry requirements, there are 40,000 members.

Maintaining that level of professionalism is the institute's next task. It knows that continual study and updating knowledge are essential if the public is to view insurance practitioners on a par with other professions.

All Society of Fellows members have to follow a strict Continuing Professional Development (CPD) regime. Already 20,000 institute members are enrolled in the points-based scheme, earning points by attending technical seminars and courses of study.

Andy Couchman, secretary of the Society of Fellows, says: "We have been delighted at the response from members. Until now there has been no form of measurement for a lot of people who have taken a very active approach to training and competence. There is a whole raft of CPD events put on by the CII at the College of Insurance in Sevenoaks, and in the City of London."

Despite the success of new exams and overseas expansion, Dr Bland is candid about past errors. The regulatory system is one. Solicitors combine examinations, professional standards and discipline under one umbrella, the Law Society, while the insurance industry has been monitored by a host of regulators. "The institute did not address that properly at the time. But nobody is going to unwind the Insurance Brokers Registration Act or the Financial Services Act. We need to have a suitable *modus vivendi*, with consumer protection remaining with the regulators, and the CII vetting a person's fitness to practise," he says.

But the biggest tribute to the CII comes from its members. Few professional organisations can point to 80 local institutes, most of which are very active and central to the new focus on professional development, offering seminars and courses on technical issues.

Proud to follow this chartered course

Insurers are seeking to improve their public status, says Stephen Womack

Doctors proudly add the title Dr to their name when they qualify. Ask a qualified accountant how he or she earns a living and the answer is likely to be: "I'm a chartered accountant". But ask an insurance professional and it is rare to hear the answer: "I'm a chartered insurer". Yet more than 20,000 people in Britain have earned the chartered title and thousands more could use it.

Becoming a chartered insurer is not easy; you have to pass a rigorous course of exams and then commit to a continuous programme of professional development and education to keep it. Yet, according to Philip Rhodes, president of the Chartered Insurance Institute for the past year, the value of this work is not always recognised — both within the industry and by the public. "The message that has not come across is that professionalism should carry pride with it. Being a chartered insurer means something and I want to hear people saying it as naturally as accountants say 'I am a chartered accountant'."

Bryan Kellett, who is due to be confirmed tomorrow as the next CII president, agrees that there needs to be "more awareness of professional qualifications. And we need to let the public know of other ways in which we are raising professional standards."

Both men see qualified professionals forming an ever growing proportion of the insurance workforce. Changes in technology mean that the paper-pushing tasks which used to occupy so many in insurance are now done by computer.

The number employed in insurance has dropped by 100,000 in the past five years and those who are left must be able to demonstrate to their employer that they bring value to their firm.

"We think that by 2010 or 2020, a very high proportion of people in the industry will hold some form of professional qualification," says Mr Rhodes. Indeed, he concedes that in the next round of downsizing, professional qualifications may be a factor in deciding who keeps their job and who goes.

One of the duties of the CII president is to remind those at the top of Britain's insurance companies of the role of professional staff. Mr Rhodes, a senior manager in General Accident, and Mr Kellett, who chairs Lloyd's underwriting agency Archer, are both well placed to speak to other top management as equals.

Promoting professional and qualified management is also important for Britain. Mr Kellett says: "British insurance companies are a big earner for the nation's balance of payments. Without the right quality of management you cannot be successful internationally and if you do not have the right people in-house you



Philip Rhodes, left, current president of the CII, and Bryan Kellett, the next president

will not get it right." There is also the question of recruitment. "If the profile of insurance professionals is not right, you will not attract and recruit the brightest and the best."

Certain businesses seem to agree with him. Lloyd's of London, working to put the problems of the past behind it, now demands that all its underwriters hold the CII's Associateship qualification. General Accident, no doubt encouraged by Mr Rhodes, says that from 1999 its employees must hold at least that qualification to be promoted into or beyond its senior management teams. The CII is

also doing its bit for Britain on the world stage. "We provide a world recognised structure of qualifications," says Mr Rhodes. "People are learning to do insurance the British way in places such as the Baltic states, China and Vietnam where the institute has been asked to go in to help out."

Looking to the future, he sees technology playing a more important role in helping people study from work, home or overseas. It might even be possible to use the Internet to examine people, rather than have the expense of running specialist exam

centres, he says. The CII is also consulting its membership on the ways in which people attain the Fellowship, the highest qualification.

This move is aimed at enhancing the perceived value of chartered status. Mr Kellett says the Chartered Insurance Institute is hoping that its centenary year will give a major boost to both its activities and its public profile. But he stresses that "the serious work of the institute goes on year after year."

● Stephen Womack is editor of the weekly insurance paper *Post Magazine*.



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Stephen Womack reports on how other parts of the globe are keen to conduct business the CII way



Chartered Insurance Institute qualifications are in strong demand in Hong Kong and other former parts of the British Empire. Elsewhere, an Anglo-Saxon business culture is desirable

Worldwide demand for standards

Last week David Bland, director-general of the Chartered Insurance Institute, was in Moscow. Next week he goes to Poland. No, he is not on a tour of Eastern Europe, but his jet-setting is a reflection of the CII's growing presence internationally.

Historically, the CII's international activity was closely linked to that of UK insurers. The institute followed the companies, which in turn followed the British Empire. This explains the strong CII outposts in places such as Australia, Hong Kong and South Africa.

The world has now changed, and hence the presence of Dr Bland in Moscow. Together with the CII's international division director, Diana Morris, he was formalising plans to open a CII exam centre in Moscow as a joint venture with the city's Finance Academy. In Poland, Dr Bland will award certificates to the first students to qualify in a local exam that the CII has developed with Polish insurance organisations.

Why are people in these nations bothered about CII qualifications? Ms Morris says: "In the developed nations it is because they feel that the CII can give them worldwide recogni-

tion for the work that they have done, either by accrediting their local exams or by sitting the institute exams directly. In developing economies, which have infant insurance markets and little local training, it seems that CII is the one choice."

While the CII will allow overseas students to take its British exams, elements of these are often meaningless in that student's home market. Hence the CII looks to forge joint

ventures with local insurance bodies, either vetting and endorsing local exams, or tailoring its own exams to local conditions.

UK insurers are increasingly aware of the international battle for favour. The Chartered Insurance Institute, together with Sun Alliance, has just launched a joint education programme in China. It is no coincidence that Sun Alliance, now part of Royal & Sun Alliance, would

dearly love to be granted a licence to trade in China. Other UK firms are looking to do similar things.

It is not just companies that are keen to sponsor training in developing markets. Governments are too. Together with partners from France and Germany, the CII is running an educational initiative in Vietnam. Eight UK insurance professionals are lecturing on insurance issues under the banner of the Vietnamese

Ministry of Finance. Advances in technology should help the CII to develop its international links further still. The Internet will allow it to deliver course material and training packages to distant nations more cost effectively.

Exploratory contacts are already under way with insurance organisations in Colombia and Argentina. Soon, no corner of the globe will be without the CII's guidance.

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

There are currently nearly 70 students taking the course, with the first person close to achieving the associate grade.

CII qualifications are no pushover and require plenty of hard study. Why do Italian students bother? Mr Pollard says business in Italy is becoming increasingly professional and the job market more competitive. "The exams are seen as a way of acquiring an Anglo-Saxon business culture, which has something of a cachet here."

Phillip Pettersen admits to having "found" the institute's qualifications relatively late in life. He only started studying for exams in 1987, but has raced through them and has now qualified as a fellow, the highest grade. Mr Pettersen runs

Forbes Re, a Johannesburg-based reinsurance brokerage. Reinsurance, the process where insurers insure themselves, is a global business. Mr Pettersen finds that the letters FCII - Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute - on his business card are recognised the world over.

South Africa has its own insurance institute. Its exams are recognised by the CII in London, putting South African insurance professionals well on the road to the passport of CII qualifications.

Although a late starter, Mr Pettersen says that the CII's associateship qualification is now the minimum he looks for when recruiting staff. He says it is a guarantee of quality. He also feels that widely-recognised qualifications "will go some way to restoring the image of insurance as a quality profession."

What professionalism means to the clients

THE importance of the chartered status and the perception of professionalism it brings are emphasised in the findings of independent research carried out on behalf of the Chartered Insurance Institute.

A survey, among 101 senior business professionals across a broad section of industries, showed that six out of ten felt a greater sense of confidence dealing with chartered individuals and that 67 per cent believed companies that employed chartered people were more reputable.

The respondents thought that professionalism brought with it competence, experience, commitment skills and standards, and seven out of ten believed that examinations made employees more professional. Medicine (76 per cent), law (54 per cent) and accountancy (53 per cent) were felt to be the sectors most associated with the term "professional".

The research found that work-related examinations are considered key to an employee's career structure by

nine out of ten respondents - only 3 per cent claiming that examinations make no difference to employee's career.

Two thirds believed that to encourage employees to take examinations, companies could pay exam fees and give time off to study. The underlying feeling, however, was that support should be given only if there was a perceived benefit to the company.

Fewer than half those questioned were aware of chartered status within the insurance industry, but 62 per cent believed the industry would be enhanced by chartered status.

The researchers also conducted interviews with ten insurance professionals which showed that there was a strong shift towards the taking of the exam leading to associateship level of the CII as a prerequisite before even applying for a position. For the most part, ACII exams were considered at least very desirable and at most a necessity.

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Chris Wheal on how insurance qualifications may soon rival accountants' and lawyers' exams



Simon Henderson is typical of the CII's new blood

Laying a claim to fame

Bryan Kellett, next year's CII president, has one of those Toblerone-shaped blocks of wood on his desk but, instead of having his name etched on it, the words embossed in gold read: "No accountants."

Turn it round and you get: "No solicitors." Joking aside, Mr Kellett admits that his aim is for the public to rank insurance professionals alongside solicitors and accountants. The Institute is well on the way.

Mr Kellett and the CII's current president, Philip Rhodes, can both be described as self-made men. Both left school and, apart from their national service, started as gofers and ended up as captains of their industry. Both chose to take the CII exams, in part at least, to demonstrate their knowledge through qualification. The new recruits to insurance have very different reasons for choosing the CII. They are already graduates and are seeking professional status and a career boost through the CII exams.

Simon Henderson is typical of the CII's new blood. He is assistant director at Sedgewick Risk Benefits and, at 28, is already a Chartered

Insurance Practitioner. "A lot of the jobs you see now want the ACII qualification. Even Lloyd's is taking on the ACII as important. If you look around, a lot of the newer people are interested in it. It's the graduates who realise that qualifications are important. It's a way of fast-tracking."

Mr Henderson also has Institute of Risk Management qualifications. He left City University in 1989 after studying economics and thought his maths and statistics background would be useful in underwriting insurance. "A lot of my friends did accountancy and I didn't want to do that," he says. "I didn't grow up wanting to work in insurance but I could see a good career developing."

He started in financial services, joining Sedgewick's graduate recruitment scheme and beginning with the CII's Financial Planning Certificate. "The easiest way to understand what everybody was talking about was to study," he adds. He then went on to start the Advanced FPC but switched to the wholesale broking business and used his AFPC exams as credits towards his ACII qualification. And it is not going to stop there. He says he is going to

become a Fellow of the CII, and he will not be alone. His wife Janet is also ACII qualified though she is a Chartered Insurer.

Fiona Tredray, 27, is different. She is a business development consultant with Norwich Union, working in personal lines of insurance and managing the accounts of all the agents in her area. She works from the company's Croydon office but covers Guildford and is rarely in the office, instead working from home and her car phone. She took a degree in history at Exeter University, graduating in

1990. Her father is an insurance broker so she had a good idea about the industry and liked the business, too.

"I knew you had a wide range of careers in insurance. I wanted to work for a big company and I wanted to get into the old inspector's role," she says. She applied to several companies and had a few offers to choose from.

Norwich Union put her through a trainee inspector programme. It also insisted on her taking the ACII exams. She is well aware that the CII exams are highly regarded within the industry, with certificates on the office walls wherever she goes. But there is still a problem with public perception. "The ACII is widely recognised within the industry and that's what we are trying to bring to the public," she says.

Mr Henderson believes there is still some way to go. "It's recognised within the industry but if I go up to someone in the street and say 'I've got an ACII they say that's nice. What colour is it?'"

Mr Kellett is determined to use the CII centenary year to win that public relations battle. Then maybe his wooden block can have "No insurers" written on it.



Fiona Tredray: consultant

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From a talking shop to a profession

As the Chartered Insurance Institute enters its centenary year, it seems that some things never change. Professionalism in the insurance industry has never been a more crucial issue.

But the fledgling organisation formed in 1896, then dubbed the Federation of Insurance Institutes of Great Britain, was more a talking shop for the fire insurance business. A century later, the CII has 70,000 members and affiliations with more than 50 institutes worldwide.

Today its members face very different professional challenges. Technology and cutthroat 1990s competition have radically altered the insurance business. Companies like Direct Line, with slick call centres and clever marketing have made general insurance products such as motor and buildings insurance commodity products sold on price.

This first attack launched in the early 1990s has been followed by telephone sales of life insurance products such as term assurance. Telephone-based direct sellers, such as Virgin Direct are also making in-roads into more complex products such as pensions. The image of the insurance industry has also been bat-

tered by the fiasco at Lloyd's after heavy losses in the early 1990s, and the £2 billion scandal of mis-selling of pensions to consumers advised to opt out or transfer from company schemes.

So how does the traditional insurance company and CII hit back? Apparently by sticking to its guns, raising professional standards and offering specialist advice.

CII press manager Steve Radford says: "When you look at the insurance and financial services industry, you have to say that the public image is not that healthy. But we want to ensure that the public recognise that there are people who have got qualifications to very high levels."

Surprisingly, education and professionalism were not top of the agenda 100 years ago — the federation was born out of the merger of a loose federation of provincial institutes.

Years of infighting over membership eligibility and threats by the London Institute to quit delayed the granting of a Royal charter, and the formation of the CII, in 1912.

Similar concerns were raised back in 1916 by former CII president H.E. Wilson. Wilson summed up the industry's image by quoting a

The institute has
continuously
raised industry
standards, says
Grant Ringshaw

photographer looking for a job for his son: "He hasn't enough brains for a photographer, but we thought he might do for an insurance office."

Despite slow beginnings, the CII has managed to maintain a central role, widening membership and taking over competing organisations.

After the Second World War, a substantial part of the CII's work was tidying up exams for associateship and fellowship status which each involved nearly 100 courses.

But the CII's history has not been without its problems. In the mid 1960s membership fell heavily as new computer systems resulted in mass redundancies.

A revival began in 1984 with an influx of members from the Lloyd's market after the CII finally decided to reintroduce marine studies into the Associateship exam. The Society of Fellows was formed in 1986 after concerns that fully qualified members should keep their knowledge up-to-date through research.

So is the CII an academic and elitist organisation? Such charges are vigorously denied. As clerical staff numbers rose, the CII attempted to meet their needs by launching the Certificate of Proficiency in 1987 in partnership with Lloyd's and other bodies.

Subsidiaries have been created to cope with CII's sprawling and diverse membership

needs. The Society of Technicians in Insurance is aimed at junior management, while the Society of Financial Advisers (Sofa), set up in 1991 concentrates on financial services.

But the biggest strain on professional standards in life insurance have emerged in the past ten years following the 1986 Financial Services Act. Financial advisers must meet new Personal Investment Authority competence requirements by July 1997.

Just two months ago, Sofa and the CII announced plans to allow financial advisers to call themselves chartered financial planners — a major step that would put financial advisers on a par with other professions.

New markets have also created new demands — this year CII teamed up with Bupa to develop the first exam for the growing Private Medical Insurance sector.

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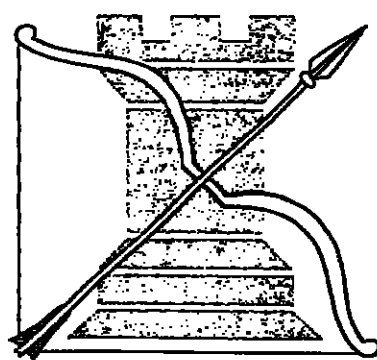
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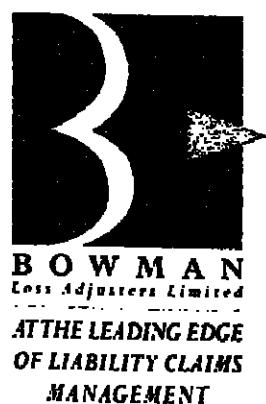
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GOLF

Montgomery and Lehman aim to reap late harvest

FROM JOHN HOPKINS IN DUBLIN

AUTUMN is a bountiful season and Tom Lehman and Colin Montgomery are just two golfers who are using the months of September and October to reap a harvest from their good golf earlier in the year. This time last year, Lehman made his first appearance in the Smurfit European Open after being one of the strong men in the defeated United States Ryder Cup team the previous week. Wide-eyed and corduroy-trousered, and accompanied by his father, he cut a warm and sympathetic figure around the K Club, 18 miles southwest of Dublin.

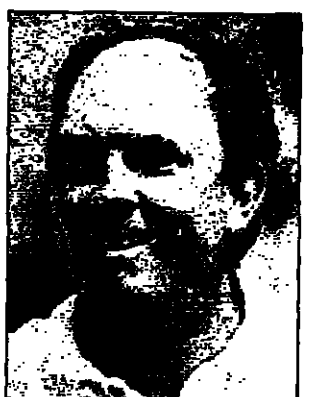
Now he is back at the K Club again. This time, though, he is the reigning Open champion, with the distinction of being one of the few men to have received two £200,000 cheques from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, organisers of the Open. It happened like this.

"My cheque for winning the Open was delivered to a street four blocks away from where I live," Lehman said. "Somebody thought it was his lucky day. It was returned and I think it sat in the post office for a while."

Lehman, meanwhile, had realised the cheque had not

been paid into his account, his manager contacted the R & A and a replacement was sent off. "Then somebody in the post office said 'I know where that guy lives' and it was delivered to me. It arrived the same day as the replacement. It worked out well because I was able to frame one cheque and cash the other."

A lot has happened to Lehman since July, including a slew of invitations for him to compete in events in Morocco, the World Cup, the Million Dollar Challenge in South Africa, the World Match Play Championship and the Alfred Dunhill Cup. He declined all



Lehman: busy summer

but the event in South Africa and the matchplay. Then there were letters, more than 1,000 of them, some from overseas. "They said nice things, like what a popular champion I was, and that made me feel good. To have European fans say those things was nice."

Montgomery is in the middle of a marathon run of events as he attempts to capture the Order of Merit for the fourth successive year and cashes in on some of the lucrative tournaments that are staged in the last months of the golfing year. He may have started the year slowly, as he waited at home for the birth of his second child, but he is more than making up for it now. This is his fifth event in as many weeks and he will compete in five more before he has a week off.

Montgomery is so consistent that, year in year out, he has been the man to beat in Europe. This time last year, he was locked in a titanic struggle with Sam Torrance and, having started the week £30,000 behind Torrance, he raced past the Scot to lead by £30,000 after finishing third here behind Bernhard Langer and Barry Lane.

For Torrance in 1995, read Ian Woosnam in 1996. The difference is that Montgomery is £141,547.42 ahead of Woosnam and the title should be his, even though he is competing in fewer events this year than last. "I am obviously good enough to win," Montgomery said, "but, if I play my usual consistent golf, I should be OK. Realistically speaking, the title should be mine."

Even for someone as rich as Montgomery, whose earnings must have exceeded £2 million in 1995, money is a considerable imperative. His total prize-money in Europe, accumulated since he turned professional in 1987, could pass £5 million this week. Only Nick Faldo and Bernhard Langer have won more. "It sounds a lot," Montgomery said, before adding: "It is an awful lot."

Hamburg offers hope for Europe quartet

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FOUR of Europe's leading women golfers are attempting to shake off the depression of defeat in the Solheim Cup by winning the German Open, which begins in Hamburg today.

Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, from France, Dale Reid, of Scotland, and the English pair, Lisa Hackney and Joanne Morley, were in the Europe side heavily beaten by the United States at St Pierre, Chepstow, last weekend.

Reid, who broke par in three of the four rounds in Germany last year, has recaptured the form that has earned her 21

Tour victories. "My putting has improved since Mickey Walker [the Europe captain] gave me a lesson three weeks ago," Reid, who finished fifth in the European Open and sixth in the English Open two weeks ago, said.

Rachel Hetherington, of Australia, defends the title — her first on the women's Tour — that she won last year with the help of a course-record 64. Tiger Woods, who is trying to earn a place on the US PGA Tour, has withdrawn from the Buick Challenge tournament at Pine Mountain, Georgia, this week.



The Princess Royal, right, the president, with Neil Townshend, the vice-chairman, at the BOA meeting yesterday

Athletes demand money for medals

BY JOHN GOODBODY

BRITAIN'S elite competitors want to be paid money for winning medals at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. The revolutionary proposal will be discussed next week by the British Olympic Association (BOA) when it carries out a two-day debriefing of the failure in Atlanta, where the team won only one gold medal, Britain's worst performance since 1952.

The suggestion is included in a 12-point strategy document prepared by Kevin Hickey, the BOA technical officer, who interviewed competitors in Atlanta, where Britain secured a total of 16 medals.

The framework document proposes that, for winning a gold medal, a British athlete would receive £20,000. It has still to be decided whether the money would come from the BOA or through the National

Lottery. However, several leading figures who attended the association's annual general meeting in London yesterday are opposed to the suggestion. Dick Palmer, *chef de mission* in Atlanta, said: "I think this proposal would be indigestible for British sport. I certainly think there should be incentives for competitors to continue taking part in the Games. For instance, after 1992, Steve Redgrave should certainly have been given more support for the following four years, and I would like to see him given money now to persuade him to continue rowing until 2000."

In recent years, Redgrave has only received direct funding of £15,000 from the Sports Aid Foundation, which is privately funded through donations, although he has also enjoyed several sponsorships. Hickey said: "I personally find this suggestion uncom-

fortable. However, the competitors in Atlanta are from a different era and you have got to move with the times."

Britain is one of the few leading sporting nations that does not have a "cash-for-medals" policy. France, which won 15 gold medals in Atlanta, awards £35,000 for a gold medal, £20,000 for a silver and £15,000 for a bronze. Italy is even more generous, with gold medal-winners getting £30,000, plus £60,000 for a pension scheme that competitors can withdraw after they are 45.

The document, *The BOA's Athlete Performance Strategy to 2000*, also details other far-reaching proposals. They include "guaranteed realistic lifestyle support for agreed athletes over a full Olympic cycle" and "enhanced Sports Council funding on squad and international fixtures, set against negotiated perfor-

mance indicators". Palmer said: "Sports have now realised that they have to send athletes who are more competitive."

The proposal got a mixed response last night from former Olympic medal-winners. Chris Brasher, the 1956 steeplechase champion, said: "You need proper funding first for the competitors, but rewarding medalists might be part of the package."

Adrian Metcalfe, the 1964 silver medal-winner in the 4x400 metres relay, said: "You can't buy Olympic medals. I do not think I would have trained harder if I had been offered £50,000."

Domonic Mahony, who was a member of the modern pentathlon team that finished third at the 1988 Olympics, said: "I never needed a cash incentive but now so many countries are doing it, I don't feel strongly against it."

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan feasting on slimline tonic

BY PHIL YATES

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN may have ambitions to run a marathon but, as he again displayed in reaching the quarter-finals of the Regal Scottish Masters at Motherwell yesterday, he sprints around the table with unparalleled fluency.

Even though he was not at his inspirational best, he needed only 95 minutes to defeat Darren Morgan 5-3. It was the fifth time in as many meetings that the former United Kingdom champion has beaten Morgan, who is one of his great advocates.

"Ronnie is the most gifted player ever to lift a cue and, if he gets his head down, he could become the greatest player ever," Morgan said.

O'Sullivan appears to have arrived at the long-overdue realisation that natural ability is, in isolation, insufficient to achieve consistent success. To this end, he is practising more diligently than ever and has embarked on an extensive fitness drive.

"I am trying to do things properly at the moment and that includes my general conditioning," O'Sullivan said. "I've lost three stones during the summer and I'm running anything between four and eight miles during a [fitness] session."

While he has been frustrated that a bout of influenza has prevented him from pounding the roads for the past ten days, there has been little to generate feelings of annoyance in terms of the quality of snooker that he has produced this season and the results that have followed.

O'Sullivan arrived at this tournament with his confidence high after capturing the Asian Classic in Bangkok 11 days ago. Now, consolidation is the primary objective and, against Morgan, there was nothing to suggest that the completion of a second success is beyond him.

As always, given O'Sullivan's attacking philosophy, Morgan was presented with



O'Sullivan: gifted

his share of scoring opportunities. Errors were committed but they were far outweighed by O'Sullivan's extraordinary ability to make the game look preposterously easy.

He compiled a string of sizeable contributions but, if anything, it was the marginal opportunities he refused in favour of safety shots that will strike a degree of fear into the heart of any potential future opponent.

At last, it seems, O'Sullivan has seen the light.

"It's not the gifted players that do the most damage," he said. "I found out that dedication is the big thing and I'm a lot more focused at present than I was last season."

O'Sullivan won the first frame when Morgan went in off the final black, led 2-0 after the Welshman had squandered a couple of openings in the next and moved 3-1 ahead with a 50 break in the fourth that was launched by a raking long red.

The carelessness that has plagued O'Sullivan throughout his career briefly reared its head when he missed a straightforward yellow off its spot on the threshold of fashioning a clearance for 4-1. If that blunder annoyed him, it was impossible to tell as he swiftly accounted for the next frame with runs of 57 and 55.

Morgan recovered stubbornly to trail 4-3 before O'Sullivan extended his unbeaten start to the new campaign to six matches with a break of 104. It was another performance that served to soften the harsh memory of O'Sullivan's disgraceful physical assault on an official at the Embassy world championship this year.

O'Sullivan, who is, in the opinion of many, lucky to be serving only a one-year suspended ban for that gross disciplinary infringement, today meets Peter Ebdon, who beat him 16-14 in the semi-finals at the Crucible five months ago to end O'Sullivan's hopes of superseding Stephen Hendry as the young-

SAILING

Golding lines up challenge laced with recrimination

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Chay Blyth's first pay-as-you-go round-the-world race was staged four years ago, there was plenty of broken gear and one significant fault in a forestry fitting on every boat. This eventually cost one its entire rig and almost brought down the mast on seven others.

This time, Andrew Roberts, the project director for the BT Global Challenge and Blyth's chief rulemaker for the boats, has been more careful than ever to ensure that the 14 identical 67ft steel cutters are up to the task of going to windward through the Southern Ocean.

Yet, with the event starting on Sunday, Blyth is already predicting a lot more breakages this time round than last. "The biggest single thing which is becoming crystal clear is that there is going to be a lot of damage," he said as 12 of the 14 skippers in the race assembled at Ocean Village in Southampton yesterday. "This time everyone's focusing on the race aspect. Gone are the days when it was more of an adventure. There's a lot of tension in the air."

As if to illustrate his point, the skippers are bickering over the kind of detail that simply would not have arisen during the first race. The issue is whether or not boats are allowed Spectra, an extremely strong lacing through the guardrails on the pulpit around the bow. This is an arcane matter. Mike Golding, on *Group 4*, is using Spectra but everyone else believes it is

been picked on. "I'm refusing to change it," he said. "Really, everyone's been looking for things on *Group 4*, but that's because they copy all our ideas. Psychologically, a lot of them [skippers] have lost the race before it has even started — they are clutching at straws."

Roberts will have to adjudicate at some stage between now and Sunday on this and probably a few other last-minute details. Everyone involved — skippers and crew — are now raring to go after what, for some, has been more than two years of preparation.

Apart from Golding on *Group 4*, the other fancied boats include *Nuclear Electric*, skippered by Richard Tudor, and *Commercial Union*, under Richard Merriweather, neither of whom turned up yesterday.

Tudor was at the helm of *British Steel II* last time when it lost its rig and now feels that he has "unfinished business" to attend to, while Merriweather took over as skipper of *Commercial Union* after its crew mutinied during the first leg last time and then did well, especially on the last leg, when he led for most of the way.

CYCLING

Stage victory elevates Konyshev

DIMITRI KONYSHEV's victory in the eighteenth stage of the Tour of Spain yesterday put him among the elite riders who have won stages in the world's three leading tours: those of France, Italy and Spain (Peter Bryan writes).

He was one of four riders to go clear after 97 kilometres of the 222-kilometre stage — the longest of the tour — from Benasque to Zaragoza. None of them presented a serious challenge to Alex Zülle, of Switzerland, the overall leader. Konyshev was the highest-placed of the quartet that

started the comparatively flat stage in 54th position. With Bo Hamburger, of Denmark, Gianni Bugno, of Paolo Valotti, both of Italy, all sharing the pace, Konyshev's compact group initially built a lead of 34 minutes but, with the main field showing a surprising degree of lethargy, their advantage increased to 122 minutes as the race entered the final 75 kilometres.

Eventually, the chasers settled down into a constructive pursuit which reduced the time gap to five minutes at the end of the stage. Konyshev

kilometre from the line but Konyshev, whose sprinting skills won him the world championship silver medal in 1989, produced a winning burst to claim the stage victory.

Zülle and some of his squad were reported last night to have suffered stomach upsets for the last two days but, with first and second places overall, the ONCE team should be able to maintain its superiority to the finish of the 3,900km race in Madrid on Sunday.

O'Sullivan, who is, in the opinion of many, lucky to be serving only a one-year suspended ban for that gross disciplinary infringement, today meets Peter Ebdon, who beat him 16-14 in the semi-finals at the Crucible five months ago to end O'Sullivan's hopes of superseding Stephen Hendry as the young-

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand from the final of this year's trials for the team to represent the United States in the Olympiad. The match was won by the Chicago team, headed by Larry Robbins.

Dealer North	Game all	IMPs	Teams
<p> ♠ A Q ♥ K 10 6 3 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ A K J 9 </p>	<p> ♠ K J 4 ♥ Q J 8 4 ♦ 5 ♣ 10 8 7 6 3 </p>		

W	N	E	S
2H	1H	Pass	1NT
	3NT	Double	All Pass

Contract: 3 NT doubled, by South Lead: six of diamonds

There is a lot to be said for opening Two No-trumps rather than One Heart on the North hand. North would like the lead to come up to him.

After South's 1 NT response the West players at both tables bid Two Hearts to show spades and a minor, both Norths jumped to Three No-trumps, and both Easts doubled. That strongly suggested East had spade values, a suit that West had shown by inference. At one table Lew Stansby as North for Deutsch's team decided to escape to Four Clubs, and made ten tricks.

When North stood his ground at the table where Zia Mahmood was West, the critical issue was whether Zia would treat the double as a command for a spade lead, or just a helpful piece of advice. Zia, not for the first time in his life, felt that he knew best, and

that the evidence of his own diamond suit should be the deciding factor. Who can say that this was wrong? Well, the result could, I suppose.

On the lead of the nine of spades the defence would have had the upper hand. On a diamond lead Robbins rose with the king and played a second diamond. Zia won with the queen and shifted to the nine of hearts — a spade at that point would have held declarer to nine tricks. Zia finally led a spade when in with the ace of diamonds. Rosenberg (East) won his king of spades and played another spade, and eventually got embarrassingly squeezed in the majors for an overtrick and -950.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Chess for Charity

This afternoon I shall be giving a chess display in aid of the Lord Mayor of London's Appeal for St John's Ambulance. I will be playing against 25 willing volunteers at the Bishopsgate Institute, Liverpool Street, London EC2 in the City of London at 4pm. If you wish to support the venture, or spectate, further details are available from Martyn Porter (tel 0171-260 8302).

Olympiad results

In the eighth round of the chess Olympiad in Erevan, Armenia, England drew 2-2 with Croatia. Matthew Sadler won for England but Julian Hodgson, the former British champion, playing his first game for the team in this tournament, lost Russia leads with 23½ points out of 32. England share ninth place with 19½.

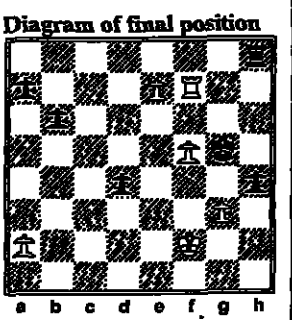
Prodigy's win

Etienne Bacrot, 13, has scored a most remarkable upset, defeating Vassily Smyslov, 75, the former world champion, by 5-1 in a set match. It is impossible to claim that Smyslov is in decline or out of form, since he performed excellently in the Foxrott tournament in London last month and went on to capture first prize in the Veznan's tournament in Groningen.

White: Etienne Bacrot Black: Vassily Smyslov

Nimzo-Indian Defence
1 c4 Nf6
2 d4 e6

3 Nc3	Bb4
4 cxd5	cxd5
5 Bg5	h6
6 Bh4	g5
7 Bg3	Ne4
8 Bg3	h5
9 e3	h4
10 f3	Bxc3+
11 bxc3	Ng3
12 h3	Nd7
13 Kf2	Nf6
14 Rb1	b6
15 c4	cx5
16 cxd5	Kf8
17 Bb5+	Kg7
18 Na2	Bb6
19 Rb3	Ba6
20 Bb6	Qd6
21 Re3	Ra6
22 Qc1	Bd7
23 e4	cx4
24 Qxg3+	Kf8
25 Re3	ex3
26 Rxb3+	Kxg8
27 g3	Rg8
28 Qe5+	Cxe5
29 dxe5	Nd5
30 Bc4	Ba6
31 Nd4	Rf8
32 Nxe5	bx6
33 Bxd5	exd5
34 f4	Kf7
35 Kf3	d4
36 Re1	Kg6
37 Rc7+	Kf5
38 Rf7	Kg5
39 e5	h4
40 e7	Black resigns

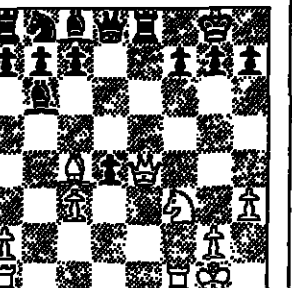


Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Staunton — Amateur, London 1845. White is a piece and three pawns down and so needs immediate and dramatic action. What is the best way forwards?



Solution on page 46

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BASTINADO
a. A South American fruit
b. Foot-slogging
c. An Andalusian brigand

GNOSIS
a. Intuition
b. The sense of smell

COCYX
a. A snafu
b. The bottom vertebra
c. Ancient Greek dice game
REFOCILLATION
a. Refreshment
b. Growing secondary leaves
c. The kiss of life

Evans takes no chances with fringe benefits

My-Pa 47 are regarded as

"We have to try and get an early goal," he said. "That might just put them down in the dumps. Obviously, I can't wait for the game. It will be great to play at Anfield on a European night. The league has to be our priority, but lifting the Cup Winners' Cup would be a great bonus. It's an exciting time and a great team to play in."



After the game — York won 3-2 for a 4-3 aggregate second-round victory — Royle had been even more blunt but, by yesterday, a night of reflection had seen him adopt a more positive mood. "We simply

Royle, apparently, has decided that Dean Holdsworth, the Wimbledon forward, does not meet his requirements after all, but with his strike force down to the bare bones,

Alan Little, the York manager, could meanwhile delight in his side's performance, although it was tinged with concern. Little was left to wonder how a side capable of playing as well as they had done could be struggling in the league.

Like Royle, David Pleat, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, had to come to terms with defeat against Nationwide League opposition in Oxford United, who won 2-1 on aggregate. "This was our fourth game in eight days and one or two players looked jaded," he said. "But all credit to Oxford. They battled well."

Nimes are on the verge of becoming the first French third-division side to progress beyond the first round in Europe as they defend a 3-1 lead against Kispest Honved in Hungary. Their compatriots, Paris Saint-Germain, the holders, are at home to Vaduz, with a 4-0 lead from the first leg.

Gravesend and Northfleet: 1 Cambridge City 1; Merton 1; Gloucester 0; Sudbury 1; Sittingbourne 3

KIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford 2; Dagenham and Redbridge 0; Barking Wood 1; Chertsey 2; Enfield 1; 1. Barnet 0; Haringey Swifts 2; Kingstonian 1; 1. St Albans 1; 1. City 2; Yeading 0; 1. First division: Boreham 2; 2. Aldershot 0; 2. Town 2; Carvey Island 1; Basildon 1; Leyton Fennant 2; Walton and Hertham 2; Totting and Mitcham 1; Maidenhead United 5; Uxbridge 1; Berkhamshead 0; Whiteley 1; Hampton 0; 2. Second division: Borehead 2; Tilbury 3; Barking 1; Witham 0; Chalfont St Peter 3; Ware 2.

The loss of the windfalls was not his prime concern, though. "It's not the money, it really isn't that important," he said, his head bowed. "What hurts is the prestige that winning, and going on in the competition, would have brought to

Had Alan Wright's rasping 30-yard drive, in the last minute, not been superbly tipped on to the crossbar by

Quite why Villa were unable to penetrate the massed Helsingborgs ranks will haunt Little, and Ellis, for some time. For Reine Almqvist, the Helsingborgs coach, it was obvious.

"When English teams try to play English football, they have success," he said. "Now they try to play the European way, but they lack depth. They should not change. They should play the way they play in the Premiership."

There is always an increase in demand for tickets after squads are announced so we would advise people to book now to avoid disappointment."

England began their World Cup qualifying campaign with a 3-0 win against Moldavia earlier this month as they seek to book their place in the 1998 finals in France.

"They are a Jekyll-and-Hyde team," he said. "They can be a brilliant side, who could easily win the Uefa Cup if they play to their best. No one could match them if it all

Keegan hauled him off against Halmstads and he was a lonely figure on the subdued plane journey back, sitting as he was 17 rows behind the rest of the Newcastle players. All does not appear well with Asprilla and Keegan has, perhaps, a job on his hands assimilating him within his team framework. The same could apply to others, too, and unless it happens rapidly, Newcastle will not be emulating their Fairs Cup success of 1969 this season.

U. Gosport 1, Lowestoft 3 West Norfolk 0;
South Tyneside 1 Sunderland 1 Tyne and
Wear League: Under-14: Sunderland 0
Newcastle 0.

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CRICKET 42

Champion reveals his winning formula for interactive game

SPORT

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26 1996

RUGBY UNION 45

Why England's next captain is being kept under wraps



Mountainous task in Uefa Cup proves just too much for London club

Borussia outgun Arsenal again

B Mönchengladbach 3
Arsenal 2
(B Mönchengladbach win 6-4 on aggregate)

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE
IN COLOGNE

BEATING Arsenal by the same margin as they had in London, Borussia Mönchengladbach moved into the second round of the Uefa Cup yesterday. Not since 1982 had Arsenal been eliminated in the first round of any European competition and this will cost them dear in terms of money and prestige.

Deprived of Lee Dixon and with Tony Adams returning to the fray when, by his own admission, he was not yet fully fit, it would have taken a remarkable performance to turn the result at Highbury on its head, even with Arsène Wenger, soon to take up the managerial reins, offering guidance.

In the event, though they went a devastating goal behind, Arsenal led 2-1 early in the second half, but ultimately found a technically and tactically superior German team just too much for them.

Before the game, David Platt spoke of Arsenal having "a mountain to climb". After 23 minutes, the mountain became the equivalent of Everest when they conceded another goal. A good goal it was, by a team which, until then, had outclassed Arsenal in movement and intelligence. Platt himself lost the ball in midfield. Pettersson, who did not play at Highbury, broke away and gave the ball to Effenberg. Playing behind the attack, rather than up front as he had done in the first leg, he guided an inspired pass into the path of the Polish attacker, Juskowiak, who rolled his shot wide of Seaman.



Wright scores Arsenal's first goal during the Uefa Cup tie against Borussia Mönchengladbach in Cologne yesterday. Photograph: Shaun Botterill/Allsport

The quick, clever combination of Juskowiak and Pettersson in central attack was a perpetual problem for the Arsenal back five, short of pace as it unfortunately was. Even more of a trial, in some ways, than the challenge of

fered by Effenberg at Highbury. As early as the sixth minute, Pettersson and Juskowiak interchanged passes and Seaman had to dive at the feet of the Swede. Arsenal's five-man defence, with Adams risked as a right centre back, led to a midfield of only three and, consequently, an over-cautious policy.

After a quarter of an hour, Arsenal did make their first notable attack. Wright pulled the ball back from the right-hand byline to Hartson, and Kamps had to plunge to save. Away came Borussia at once, with another combination between Pettersson and Juskowiak. The Pole forcing Seaman to block with his legs. Arsenal equalised unexpectedly, and somewhat undeservedly, a couple of minutes from half-time. Significantly, perhaps, the goal came not from open play but from Merson's free kick. Hartson flicked on, Wright seized on the chance and beat Kamps from close range with

his left-foot shot. Five minutes into the second half, Merson showed just how important his dynamic bursts can be for Arsenal. He advanced to send a searing right-footed shot wide of Kamps. Arsenal were 2-1 ahead, and the magnificent illusion reigned. But it

was quickly put into perspective. The Arsenal defence was still shaky through the middle and when Juskowiak broke through, he beat Bould for speed and shot just wide of a post.

After 62 minutes, Borussia took off Pettersson, substituting him with the midfield player, Hochstatter, and thus breaking up the electric partnership with Juskowiak. However, Effenberg, Arsenal's tormentor at Highbury, now moved into the front line.



Wenger, left, and Rice celebrate Merson's goal

There was, then, no interruption of Borussia's generally smooth superiority. When Passlack, attacking from right back, played an elegant one-two with Nielsen, he got clear away down the right, and put across a ball which Neum wastefully sent wide.

Four minutes later Schneider played Effenberg through. Arsenal, who had by then taken off Linighan and put Parlour on the right flank, seemed sure to concede the equaliser but Effenberg ran diagonally wide and, when he did shoot, hit the base of the left-hand post.

After 75 minutes, however, he would atone for that, taking a neat ball from Hochstatter and this time carrying on to beat Seaman. The impossible

dream was fading away. Bolder than ever, Arsenal took off Adams and gambled by sending on another flank man, Helder. They were now living dangerously and when an attack broke down, Effenberg set one up for Borussia. Wynhoff slipped Juskowiak through the Arsenal defence and in went the winner.

Though the score was the same as it had been at Highbury, the circumstances had been very different. Borussia Mönchengladbach (4-4: 2: U Kamps — J Neum, H Fournier (sub: J Stiller, 45min), P Anderson, S Passlack — P Nielsen (sub: B Wynhoff), I Lipowski, M Schneider, S Effenberg — A Juskowiak, J Pettersson (sub: C Hochstatter, 60). ARSENAL (5-3-2): D Seaman — M Keown, A Adams (sub: G Helder, 70), S Bould, A Linighan (sub: P Parlour, 63), N Winterburn — P Merson, D Platt, P Viera — I Wright, J Hartson. Referee: A Lopez Nieto (Spain).

Bryant's Eye, page 46
Liverpool prepare, page 44

Celtic face further penalties after cup exit

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CELTIC will find out late next week the extent of their European hangover. Malky Mackay and John Hughes were both dismissed after committing second bookable offences in the first 41 minutes of their 2-0 Uefa Cup first-round defeat in Hamburg on Tuesday, which, when added to the dismissal of Simon Donnelly in Kosić in the preliminary round, could result in a fine for the Parkhead club.

Mackay and Hughes will be automatically suspended for the first match of Celtic's next European campaign and Tommy Burns, the manager, is also contemplating possible punishment for his criticism of the referee, Vadim Schuk.

"It depends on the players' individual records," a Uefa spokesman said. "The red cards will be assessed at the next meeting of the Control and Disciplinary Committee, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 3.

"As for the manager, that would depend if there is anything included in the report by the official Uefa delegate, which we have not yet received."

Burns's more immediate concern, however, is the gulf between Scottish and European club soccer exposed by his team's 4-0 aggregate defeat.

The implications for Scotland are equally disturbing, given that Celtic have not been defeated in the Bell's Scottish premier division for exactly a year. Burns said: "We have a lot of catching up to do. Rangers have found that out as well and Scottish football in general has found it tough to compete in Europe."

"We would all love to be at the top in Europe but even Manchester United, who are by far the best side in Britain, were made to look very ordinary on the big stage by Juventus recently."

Television and football authorities are on likely to clash over live coverage of Scotland's World Cup game in Latvia next month. BBC Scotland has bought the rights to show the match live on the afternoon of Saturday, October 5, but if they go ahead they will incur the wrath of the Scottish authorities as a first, second and third division programme is planned for the same day.

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Atkinson to face second FA charge

BY RICHARD HOBSON

AS IF trying to lift Coventry City out of the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership is not sufficient to occupy his mind, Ron Atkinson, the manager, was given something else to mull over yesterday when he was charged with bringing the game into disrepute for the second time in a month.

It follows an incident in the 2-0 defeat against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on August 24, when a throw-out from Steve Ogrizovic, the Coventry goalkeeper, was clearly handled by Dan Petrescu before Frank Leboeuf went through to score for the home side. Television replays confirmed what Paul Danson, the referee,

and his assistants missed, but nevertheless, Danson reported Atkinson and his assistant manager, Gordon Strachan, for protesting too forcibly. Liam Daish, the Coventry defender, who was sent off in the mêlée that ensued, has also been charged for alleged comments made outside the referee's dressing-room after the game.

Atkinson and Strachan have already opted for personal hearings concerning dispute charges stemming from a reserve game against West Bromwich Albion on August 28. Play was halted for 15 minutes when Strachan refused to leave the pitch after being sent off for dissent and both teams were taken to the dressing-rooms while the referee, Tony Green, discussed the issue with Atkinson, who was subsequently charged for making derogatory remarks, and Alan Buckley, the Albion manager.

Graham Hover, the Coventry secretary, said: "They have not done anything that the club is really concerned about. They both have a good track record in the game and we do not look upon these as being serious incidents." If found guilty, Atkinson could suffer a fine and touchline ban, while Strachan, still playing at the age of 39, may face suspension. For Daish, the news completed a dreadful 24 hours. On Tuesday evening, he was sent off during the Coca-Cola Cup win against Birmingham City.

The Football Association will decide in the next few days whether to charge Ian Wright with misconduct after he pulled the hair of Regi Blinker, of Sheffield Wednesday, during Arsenal's 4-1 win at Highbury earlier this month. Mike Reed, the referee, did not see the incident but David Platt, the Wednesday manager, said afterwards that he would be reporting Wright.

Doncaster Rovers, the bottom club in the Nationwide League, was put up for sale yesterday, just two days after another third division club, Cambridge United, was placed on the market. Dinard Trading, the controlling company based in the Isle of Man, has advertised its 51 per cent shareholding in Doncaster.

IOC voices fear of Sydney disruption

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) admitted yesterday that it feared the Games in Sydney in 2000 could face disruption from Aborigines or other minority groups.

Jacques Rogge, the IOC coordination commission chairman, said organisers should not be held responsible for Australia's social ills but it was unavoidable that groups would try to use the event for their own purposes. "We know that there is a potential problem with aboriginal issues and ethnic minorities who might want to take the Games as a hostage," he said yesterday.

However, he added that the

Olympic organisers say minority groups may target the next Games for action

Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (Socog) was responsible only for organising and staging the event and, in every aspect of sport, it had given a proper consideration to minorities.

Rogge said that providing adequate transport would be a challenge for organisers but he was confident that Sydney would avoid the kind of problems seen at the Atlanta Games this year.

"The commission is extremely satisfied about the preparation for the Olympic Games here in Sydney," he added.

"From our side we ask no more from Socog and we are very satisfied with the policy in place."

"We feel it would be unfair to put the blame on Socog for not solving problems that are not the responsibility of Socog."

Rogge, a former Olympic sailor for Belgium, also said that the environmentalist movement was attempting to tie its colours to the Games. "We know that there is some discussion by the environmental community at large," he added.

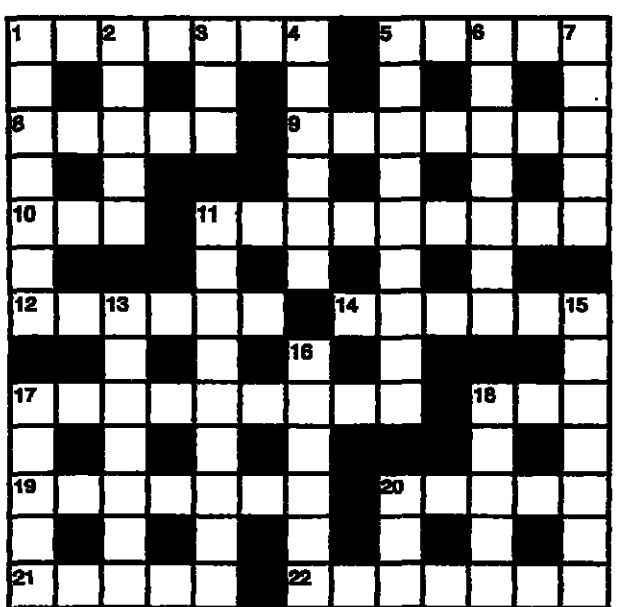
"But we feel this reflects more the lack of union of the environment community than a failure of Socog."

The New South Wales Olympics Minister, Michael Knight, said that he doubted whether the Australian public would react kindly to any group hijacking the Games for its own political agenda.

Sydney would not be held to ransom by interest groups, he said. Rogge, who on his last visit in May last year gave an impressive report on Socog, saying it scored between nine and ten, this time reserved his decision. "It's not a honeymoon, but the problems we've analysed can all be overcome," he said.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 897 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS
- 1 Herd together: increase to next integer (5,2)
 - 5 An animal: Augustine's see (5)
 - 8 Chuck (5)
 - 9 Firmly established (4-3)
 - 10 Crafty, secretive (3)
 - 11 Duck (9)
 - 12 Of milk (6)
 - 13 Paradise Lost poet (6)
 - 14 Very bright (9)
 - 15 Stifle joke (3)
 - 16 Showing pleasure, welcome (7)
 - 17 Fluid-control device (5)
 - 21 Division of play: place of action (5)
 - 22 Indoor breeze (7)
- DOWN
- 1 Non-acceptance (7)
 - 2 Concord: the number one (5)
 - 3 An animal; to follow (3)
 - 4 Tiny particles of egg yolk (6)
 - 5 Greek expert, admiral (9)
 - 6 Faint; graduate from Sandhurst (4,3)
 - 7 Unusual, improper (5)
 - 8 Painting of fruit, etc (5,4)
 - 9 Style of cookery (7)
 - 10 Fail to attend to (7)
 - 11 Uneven; wearing tatters (6)
 - 12 Foundation (5)
 - 13 Soviet camp system (5)
 - 20 By way of (3)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 896
ACROSS: 5 Roman numeral 8 Stoned 9 Trials 10 Call 12 Maracle 14 Pilgrim 15 Vain 17 Elair 18 Obvious 20 Delicacies
DOWN: 1 Arctic Circle 2 Amen 3 Dushman 4 Levitate 6 Nude 7 Auld Lang Syne 11 Leg cabin 13 Journal 16 Vole 19 Tusk

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